

Liberals draw back from breaking pact with Labour

Liberal MPs decided last night to maintain the parliamentary pact with the Government in spite of their announcement earlier in the day that the failure of most Labour MPs to support proportional representation in elections to the European Parliament was "calculated to destroy the Lib-Lab agreement".

Early recall of party assembly expected

By Fred Emery

Political Editor
Liberal MPs contemplated breaking off their agreement to support the Government last night but decided to wait until they could find a more solid ground for divorce. They had been provoked to a higher pitch of dismay by the Labour left's part in Tuesday's heavy Commons defeat for proportional representation.

Mr Steel, the party leader, speaking on BBC television after his third meeting with the Prime Minister in 24 hours, conceded that it would be "difficult to keep the agreement going" in spite of his own wish to do so. He demurred at the suggestion that the party was waiting for a sharper issue.

But his colleagues say that Mr Steel has been in a state of mind that the pact cannot continue for the rest of this parliamentary session, as he had hoped. They say the only remaining division among the 12 MPs who attended last night's final meeting was between those who thought the pact should end in January and those who thought it might end in April.

The lone rebel remains Mr Cyril Smith, who expressed disgust at his colleagues' antics yesterday. He said on BBC television that he believed there was "no price too small for David Steel to pay to carry on the pact".

Mr Smith showed perspicacity about his being an extraordinary day. After the morning's cancellation of the Parliamentary Labour Party's majority having "calculated to destroy the Lib-Lab agreement" (by their vote, the evening (a few meetings later) saw Mr Steel's Liberal Party denouncing Mr Thatcher's trap (the Conservative vote on PR). Mr Steel said: "We are not going to fall for that."

But Mr Steel, on television, clearly wanted viewers to fall for his view of the pact. He said that getting the economy right was all that mattered; for too long politicians had dodged difficult solutions. Now at last they had someone—Mr Callaghan's Government, evidently—who would take those decisions.

His critics should wait until the end of the day when they came out right and the party could draw some benefit. Mr Steel would not say on television whether he would resign if they pressed for a quick end to the pact. But it is said that he did not need to.

It remains, however, that the way Labour MPs helped to defeat the PR vote in the debate on the European assembly elections Bill will trigger a calling of the party special assembly. Three leading Liberal officers are holding discussions and it is expected that by the end of the week they will announce the holding of an assembly in the new year.

It was not clear last night what precisely had persuaded the Liberals to draw back when early in the day they seemed bent on plunging into whatever crisis might arise.

The 12 MPs at the morning meeting had unanimously proclaimed that the failure of an overall majority of Labour's MPs to support the Government's PR proposal was, in the words of a press announcement "calculated to destroy the Lib-

Lab agreement". MPs present conceded that the pact was dead but for the public presentation. Mr Callaghan, apparently, did not offer the Liberals anything new when Mr Steel met him for the second time. The Prime Minister held that the Government had lived up to all its carefully written pledges.

The Liberals had to agree and concede that their real quarrel was with most of the left wing of the Labour Party.

So when Mr Steel returned it transpired that the earlier division of eight to four in favour of breaking the pact there and then (only Mr Ross, Mr Freud and Mr Howells were said to wish to fight on with Mr Steel) had switched. Now, it was reported, there were six in favour of soldiering on the while, four against, with three abstentions, all taken only in informal soundings rather than votes.

With the Liberals' decision pending, the Government made clear that it would carry on its business of tackling inflation and unemployment and that it did not want an early election.

The day-long tension did not overtake the Parliamentary Labour Party, which often fails to take the Liberals seriously in good time. But there was a gleam in the odd leading Tory eye, and it would be a surprise if last night's Show Cabinet meeting did not discuss it.

A senior Tory suggested that Mrs Thatcher would put down a censure motion at the first opportunity in the new year. It was seen that she would have to, for combat's sake.

All that remains speculation until the Government decides to break off. Even then the Government is not in imminent danger, assuming that the 11 Scottish and three Welsh nationalists maintain their support over the two devolution Bills, for which the Government also enjoys the support of two more MPs of the separate Scottish Labour Party.

But if 13 Liberals vote against in future rather than for, the equation is, of course, turned round by 25 votes.

Labour is, after all, in an overall minority of 14, having 308 seats in the Commons against 322 others.

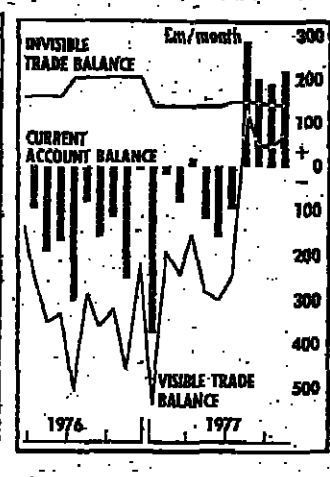
That renders the Government much more precarious and liable to ambush than it has been in the past nine months. Unless the Government soon comes forward with new proposals to restore a measure of regional government in Northern Ireland Mr Callaghan will not be able to rely in the new year on the neutrality of the six Ulster Unionists led by Mr James Moynihan.

There may not seem to be many votes involved but they could mean the difference between victory or defeat on a confidence motion if cast against the Government.

Good will needed? Mr Grimmond, the former Liberal leader, said on BBC television's *Nationwide* programme last night that he believed the Prime Minister had kept his part of the pact. The Press Association reported it required good will on both sides.

Speaking before his party's MPs decided to continue the pact, he said he thought the Liberals should end it before the next general election, but did not think now was a good moment.

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Leading article, page 15



£218m trade surplus in November

By Caroline Atkinson

Britain has had a healthy surplus on the trade and current account for the fourth month in succession.

The November £218m visible trade surplus (exports less imports of goods) was well above most City expectations. Together with the usual surplus on invisible trade this led to a £218m surplus on the current account of the balance of payments.

However, the continued financial improvement makes a much less encouraging picture of the real economy. Exports and imports fell during the month in value and volume.

In the first nine months of this year British exporters put up a very good performance. Export growth outpaced that of the rest of the world and began to make up the losses in world trade shares of 1975 and 1976. This was in line with the hoped-for effects on British competitiveness of last year's drop in sterling.

However, since September export volumes have fallen by 1.2 per cent, more than half of this fall last month. More serious is the fall in manufactured exports, especially in transport equipment (including cars).

In the three months ending November export volumes were down by 2.1 per cent on the previous three months. Machinery and transport equipment exports were 7 per cent below the previous three months and metal goods were down by 10 per cent.

The rise in the pound in the past few months has had a significant impact on Britain's terms of trade. As the pound is worth more in terms of foreign currencies Britain pays less for its imports, and earns more from its exports.

Imports have been very depressed this year, perhaps reflecting the generally low level of demand in the economy. However, within the total there have been some worrying increases in the volume of imports of finished manufactures.

Overall imports of manufactures have been lower in the past three months because of a drop in machinery imports for the North Sea. Car imports have been extremely high. In the latest three months there has been a turnaround of nearly £600m in Britain's current account from a deficit of £399m in the three months to August to a £170m surplus in the three months to November.

However, about £320m of the improvement is because of the more erratic elements of trade, and may not be repeated. Nevertheless, Britain now sounds in surplus, and likely to remain there throughout 1978.

Hopeful phase for economy, page 25

Cairo talks open as diplomatic interest switches to US

Mr Begin taking peace proposals approved by his ministers to President Carter

From Edward Mortimer
Cairo, Dec 14

The Cairo conference—officially a preparatory meeting for a Geneva peace conference—began today in the ornate and oriental setting of the dining room of the Mena House Hotel, which was formerly a palace of Egypt's nineteenth century Khedives.

Overshadowed almost literally by the Giza Pyramids, the meeting was overshadowed metaphorically by the news that Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, was on his way to America, and by speculation that President Sadat might join him there for a trilateral meeting with President Carter.

Egyptian officials said they had no knowledge of any such plan, but were careful not to rule out, pointing out that Mr Sadat's visit to Israel last month was as much a surprise to them as to everyone else.

The Egyptian official said: "The action is in Washington

now." Indeed, the congratulatory message to the delegates from Mr Begin as he set off on his mission "in the cause of peace" seemed to belie the statement made by his delegate, Dr Eliezer Ben-Elissar, who told the conference: "We, the countries involved in the conflict, can resolve the problems that have to be solved, if there is a lesson to be learnt from our long dispute. It is peace cannot be made by proxy."

The opening meeting lasted only one hour, a good part of which was passed in silence while hundreds of journalists trooped through the room. The proceedings consisted simply of four short speeches by each of the four heads of delegation: Dr Esmat Abdul Megid for Egypt, Dr Ben-Elissar for Israel, Mr Alfred Atherton for the United States and General Ennio Silasvuo for the United Nations.

Five empty places were left for the parties which have not accepted the Egyptian invitation. These were not labelled in deference to Israeli reluctance to sit down opposite even a table marked "PLO". But Dr Megid, who also acts as chairman, named the PLO in his speech as one of the parties invited (along with Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Soviet Union).

Outside the hotel nine flags flew, including those of both Israel and Palestine. (For a time the flag of North Yemen replaced that of Syria, but this mistake was quickly rectified.)

An absurd game of cat-and-mouse was played over the flags during the day. The Israeli delegation protested about the presence of an "unknown" flag (the Palestinian one).

The Egyptian delegates referred the complaint to the hotel management, who said they had received their instructions from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, which had also supplied them with the Israeli flag. In the end all the flags and flagspoles were taken down.

Dr Ben-Elissar expressed his regret at the absence in this city and from this table of all those who should be with us today, representatives of Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan and an appropriate delegation of Palestinian Arabs, but he did not bother to pretend he regretted the absence of the Soviet Union.

All four delegates said they regarded the meeting as an important step forward in a process which they hoped would lead to a comprehensive settlement based on the principles established in Security Council Resolution 242.

For Dr Megid such a settlement would be one "whereby the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are fully realized so that peace and justice may prevail once more in the Middle East". While Mr Ben-Elissar said the goal was

to translate the principles of Resolution 242 "into all the necessary elements of a peace treaty", including diplomatic relations, commerce, international cooperation and so on.

Dr Ben-Elissar concluded by evoking the Jeffersonian principle: Enemies in war, in peace, friends. "We want peace", Mr Ben-Elissar said, "and we shall be friends".

The conference is to resume in closed session tomorrow. But there was an informal meeting of Israeli, Egyptian and American representatives to thrash out further unresolved procedural problems.

The meeting still has no fixed agenda and both sides are on the watch for procedural details which, by forming a precedent, might prejudice future negotiations.

The Egyptians may have sidestepped "unnecessary formalities", as Dr Megid put it.

Continued on page 6, col 4



Mr George Ward: Jubilant.

Lords quash Acas appeal on Grunwick

By Craig Seton

Five Law Lords yesterday unanimously dismissed an appeal by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) which sought to quash a recommendation that the Grunwick company, in north-west London, should recognize the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apecs).

A strike for union recognition by more than a hundred Grunwick employees began 16 months ago. The strikers were dismissed by the company.

The Acas recommendation, based only on the opinions of workers on strike because Mr George Ward, managing director of Grunwick, had refused to give the names and addresses of employees, had already been contested in the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

The Lords' decision, apart from virtually ending the strikers' hopes of reinstatement and Apecs' chances of recognition, has wide implications for Acas, whose role some now see as undermined.

In the Lords' judgment, Lord Diplock said Acas was not entitled to make any recommendation to recognize a union as long as it remained in ignorance of the opinions held by a group of workers of significant size. He said that Acas was not entitled to make any recommendation to recognize a union as long as it remained in ignorance of the opinions held by a group of workers of significant size. He said that Acas was not entitled to make any recommendation to recognize a union as long as it remained in ignorance of the opinions held by a group of workers of significant size.

Continued on page 2, col 1

Trafalgar adds to press interest

Trafalgar House group, which moved into Fleet Street with the purchase of Bevanbrook News, and subsequently added to its new publishing arm the magazine publishers Morgan Gramplan, is now poised to take over *Investor's Chronicle*, the specialist City publication. The purchase price is about £1.4m. Profits and sales at *Investor's Chronicle* recently went into the hands of Trafalgar believes the magazine has a bright future.

Brezhnev mystery

President Brezhnev was inexplicably absent yesterday when the country's economic plan and the Soviet Union was presented to the Supreme Soviet. Mr Brezhnev, who is 71 on Monday, has also cancelled a meeting with Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, arranged for tomorrow in Moscow.

Rebels to free hostages

The eight French hostages held by the Western Sahara Polisario Front are to be freed "soon", a report said in Paris. M Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, was informed by the Front of its decision. It is thought that the rebels have realized that the continued detention of the hostages would do their cause more harm.

Pakistan 164 for two

Pakistan were 164 for two against England at the close of play on the first day of the first Test match at Lahore. Miller and Old took the two wickets in successive over just before the lunch interval.

John Woodcock, page 7

White voting proposal upsets Rhodesia blacks

Prospects dimmed for an early settlement between Mr Ian Smith's Government and three groups of black nationalists. Although negotiations are continuing, the delegates emerged story-faced from yesterday's session in Salisbury. Apparently Mr Smith had insisted that one of every three MPs should be elected by whites only, with blacks voting separately for two-thirds of the seats.

Dollar hits new lows

The dollar again had a bad day on the European foreign exchanges falling to new lows against the Swiss franc and Deutsche mark in hectic trading. One dealer in Frankfurt described trading as "unbelievably crazy". In London the dollar also slipped with the result that the pound closed at just under \$1.85, 70 points up.

Planning order withdrawn

The Government is withdrawing the controversial Town and Country Planning General Development Order for further consideration. It was intended to relax planning controls and was expected to reduce the number of applications.

Tri-ang in receivership

A receiver has been appointed for Tri-ang Pedigree, the toys and prams company rescued by Airfix with government help in 1975. Airfix, which owns 56 per cent, informed the Department of Industry, which is the other shareholder, that it was not prepared to take up any further shares without more government support.

Canary Islands: Two policemen were shot dead on the second day of rioting following the killing of a student.

Greece: Last month's swing to the left is analysed in a six-page Special Report 10-15

Stonehouse spying allegations revived

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Westminster
New evidence, which it was alleged, suggested that Sir Harold Wilson was wrong when he exonerated Mr John Stonehouse of spying for Czechoslovakia, was presented in the Commons yesterday by two Conservative MPs, Mr Peter Blaker and Mr Stephen Hastings.

Mr Blaker said he and Mr Hastings had decided to raise the matter after a letter had come into their possession from Josef Frolík, the defector, who had been a senior intelligence officer in the Czechoslovak Secret Service.

The key passage in the letter, written by Mr Frolík to a friend in London, stated that three months after Sir Harold, as Prime Minister, made his statement in the Commons in December 1974, to the effect that Mr Stonehouse was not a spy, he had sent a high official of MI5 to apologize to Mr Frolík, who was then in the United States. Mr Frolík had given a warning about Mr Stonehouse, the former Labour minister, who is now in prison for theft and false pretences.

Mr Blaker said the letter from Mr Frolík about the MI5 official suggested that Sir Harold was wrong when he exonerated Mr Stonehouse.

Was it possible that Sir Harold made his statement on the basis of official advice which was later found to be inaccurate? Was he later told that the information was inaccurate, and if so, why did he not come to the House to set the record straight?

Mr Blaker and Mr Hastings called for a full investigation into the allegations immediately after the Commons return from the Christmas recess.

Parliamentary report, page 16

Prince honoured

The Prince of Wales is to be made a privy councillor on Tuesday, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday. The Prince was eligible to become one when he was 18, but the appointment is at the discretion of the monarch.

Dutch millionaire given 15-year prison term for part in massacres of Jews

From Robert Schull
Amsterdam, Dec 14

Pieter Nicolas Menten, the 78-year-old Dutch millionaire and art collector, was sentenced to 15 years in jail by an Amsterdam court today for his part in the mass murders in 1941 of Polish nationals, mainly Jews, in the village of Podhorzecz which was occupied by the Germans. The village is now part of the Soviet Union.

He was acquitted because of lack of evidence of having taken part in the mass murders in another village. The public prosecutor had asked for a life sentence.

The court found it impossible after 36 years to reconstruct exactly the role played by Mr Menten in the massacre. But Mr Menten's responsibility was considered to be so great that the 15-year term was warranted.

The court considered that small differences in the evidence furnished by the witnesses made it more trustworthy. The Menten trial started in April and involved a total of 25 hearings. Light was thrown on his involvement in the Nazi massacre after a Dutch newspaper had published an interview with him on his art collection. This drew the attention of Mr Chaviv Kanaan, an Israeli journalist, to Mr Menten.

Mr Menten returned to The Netherlands from Poland in 1943. After the war he was sentenced to eight months in prison for having worn a German uniform and having worked as an interpreter for the SS in 1941. Allegations were made in the early 1950s that he had played a role in the massacres of Jews. Both Poland and Israel failed in demands for his extradition.

Mr Kanaan's accusations led to further investigations particularly by the news magazine *Accent*. The television programme on current affairs *Actua* produced witnesses who later appeared before the Amsterdam court.

There were public demands in the Netherlands for his arrest. When this was finally decided, Mr Menten escaped to Switzerland on the eve of being detained, which caused a outcry. It appeared that Mr van Agt, the present Prime Minister-designate, who was then Minister of Justice, had failed to read an urgent message on Mr Menten.

The Swiss extradited Mr Menten to the Netherlands on the understanding that he would not be extradited to a third country.

It is considered likely that Mr Menten will appeal to the High Court.

New York case, page 6

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New York case, page 6

IRA 'using Soviet grenades'

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Army experts in Northern Ireland are understood to have established that hand grenades used in three Provisional IRA attacks against British troops within the past week were all of Russian origin.

It is feared that the acquisition of Soviet weapons means that the Provisional IRA has found a new source of arms supplies. The weapons were the first commercially manufactured grenades used by the Provisionals since their campaign in Ulster began.

The first of the grenade attacks took place late on Saturday night when two of the Russian devices were hurled at an armoured personnel carrier in the strongly republican Grosvenor Road district of west Belfast. Both exploded more than 10 yards from their target, causing no damage and no casualties.

In the past, Provisional IRA gunmen have occasionally made use of the Russian-made AK47, a powerful 7.62 rifle, which has proved highly effective. As yet no firm theory about the route by which the grenades arrived in the province has been reached, but a Middle East connexion is suspected.

The discovery of the Russian grenades follows closely on a little publicized operation by Belgian police which resulted in about four tons of weapons destined for the Provisional IRA being intercepted in Antwerp.

Rocket launchers and firearms were among the weapons. The consignment was en route to the Irish Republic from Cyprus.

Soldier killed

An undercover soldier was murdered last night while on surveillance duties in the strongly republican Andersonstown area of Belfast.

Verdict reached on Irish torture claims

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Almost six years to the day since Britain was formally accused by the Irish Republic of torturing IRA suspects in Northern Ireland, the European Court on Human Rights has reached a final verdict.

The decision, which was reached during a private session of the 18 judges in Strasbourg, will be delivered publicly next month.

Last night it was generally accepted by officials in Belfast and Dublin that the court would uphold an earlier decision of the European Commission on Human Rights, and find Britain guilty of breaching article three of the Convention.

The main findings are that seven companies were paying some employees below the poverty datum line (PDL) which is defined as the lowest possible amount on which a family can live under humanly decent conditions in the short run; 49 were paying below the minimum effective level (MEL) which is defined as 150 per cent of PDL.

The analysis is part of the follow-up to the 1974 inquiry into British firms in South Africa carried out by the trade and industry sub-committee of the Commons Expenditure Committee.

A study of the data available shows that about sixty companies were providing pension and retirement funds; 32 had subsidized canteens; and 24 provided education schemes.

Sugar firm halts TV film on black workers

By David Nicholson-Lord

ATV is still hoping to screen the uncut version of a television film containing controversial interviews with Tate and Lyle sugar workers in South Africa despite the cancellation of the programme after a High Court injunction yesterday.

The film, *Working for Britain*, was the third in a documentary series, *The South African Experience*. It was due to be broadcast at 9 o'clock last night but was replaced at four hours' notice with a previously broadcast *Whicker's World* programme.

The six-day injunction against showing the interviews, only a few minutes of the hour-long documentary, was obtained by

Tate and Lyle after a 3½-hour private hearing.

It was believed the television company was considering lodging an immediate appeal. However, ATV is now hoping to show it in place of the fourth programme in the series next Wednesday if the appeal succeeds.

Mr John Lyle, chairman of Tate and Lyle, said after the hearing that he was relieved and delighted. He challenged the accuracy of the information provided in interviews with black workers on pay and conditions.

The dispute arose after a visit by Mr Antony Thomas, the film's freelance producer, to a sugar estate at Doornkop, near Durban, in July. Tate and Lyle sold its interest in the estate in September.

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HOME NEWS

Labour leaders delay decision on automatic reselection for MPs

By Michael Hardfield
Political Reporter

Labour's heated argument over whether MPs should automatically face reselection before a general election, part of a campaign organized by the left, was put back into the melting pot yesterday at a meeting of the national executive committee, in which the Prime Minister intervened.

Some right-wing Labour MPs were breathing a sigh of relief last night because they saw themselves as the object of the strategy organized by the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, which culminated in a resolution to the annual party conference this year.

The resolution was submitted, but it was expected that the national executive, dominated by the left, would bring forward proposals for automatic reselection. It has now been decided to set up a working party which will include MPs and constituency party representatives and not just national executive members.

While Mr Ian Mikardo, MP, strongly objected to the working party, first proposed by the party's organization committee on the casting vote of its chairman, Mr Bryon Stanley, of the Post Office Engineering Union, Mr Callaghan said that automatic reselection was not necessarily the best way to run the party. When the executive voted 14 to 11 in favour of

the working party, the Prime Minister, jokingly but with undisguised relief, said: "I could have left earlier".

Mr Mikardo said everyone knew that the Parliamentary Labour Party was against automatic reselection and suggested that a proposal should be put to the conference, which could defeat it if it wanted to.

Mr Callaghan would have none of it. That was a flat-footed way of handling it, he said, suggesting that Mr Mikardo was usually far more subtle. "Our object is to try to get agreement with all concerned before we put anything to conference".

The executive committee also held off union pressure for an inquiry into the party's organization and structure, although it agreed that the organization committee should set up a working party, which will include the General and Municipal Workers' Union, who first suggested the idea, to hear his views.

Mr Callaghan again joined in the debate, agreeing with Mr Foot that it would be best to hear what Mr Bannett had to say before taking any further steps.

Mr Mikardo was also against the inquiry, particularly in what might be a general election year, although the Prime Minister raised doubts on that when he said that some people had suggested 1978, but he wanted "to make it absolutely clear there was also 1979".

Planning order is withdrawn

By Our Planning Reporter

The Government announced yesterday that it is withdrawing the controversial Town and Country Planning General Development Order for further consideration. The order was intended to relax planning controls and was expected to reduce the number of applications by up to a fifth.

The surprise announcement came only a day after indications that the Government was ready to override opposition, including a motion carried in the Lords last week, calling for the order to be withdrawn. On Tuesday evening Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, told journalists that he was willing to consider objections in and outside Parliament, but with no hint of any immediate action.

Yesterday's statement also said that the Government's response to the report by the Commons expenditure committee on planning procedures would be published shortly.

Jail hostage move

A new office is being built outside Parkhurst prison, Isle of Wight, to reduce the risks to civilian employees of being taken hostage by prisoners.

Call for action to help young blacks

From John Chatteris
Manchester

The difficulties of young black people living in Liverpool, one of the most deprived districts of Merseyside, need urgent action, Mr David Lane, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, said yesterday. Speaking at a press conference in Manchester on the commission's strategy for the North-west, he said that while Liverpool would not be singled out for special action by his commission, a call would be made to local authorities and other employers in the city.

"We do not feel we are quite sitting on a powder keg there, but there are now opportunities to improve matters which must be taken up quickly".

Call for death grant to be raised to £60

By a Staff Reporter

An appeal to the Government to double the death grant from £30 to £60 in next year's Budget was made yesterday by organizations representing the elderly. Representatives of the English, Scottish and Welsh groups of Age Concern, as well as consumer bodies including the Welsh Consumer Council, held an all-party lobby of MPs at Westminster. They say that the grant, last raised by £5 in 1967, represents a quarter of the cost of the cheapest available funeral, although the original intention of the National Insurance Act, 1946, was for a subsidy of a half.

The cost of doubling the grant is put at £15m, with an extra £3m for removing the anomaly that prevents men from qualifying for the full rate.

The Department of Health said yesterday that although the present grant represented 18 per cent of average funeral costs it was still considered a significant contribution towards meeting them.

MPs seek Act change over jailing of woman

By a Staff Reporter

Ninety-nine MPs have put their names to a Commons motion seeking a change in an obscure fourteenth century law that allowed a Birmingham woman to be sent to jail for a month earlier this year without being charged with any offence. Mrs Valerie Waters, aged 45, of Endwood House, Little Aston, Birmingham, originally appeared before magistrates at Market Bosworth, Leicestershire, as a prosecution witness in a case against four fox-hunting supporters who were alleged to have ambushed her car, poured oil on it and sprayed it with paint. But the magistrates decided that Mrs Waters, an active opponent of hunting, had provoked the supporters and found her over in the sum of £50 to keep the peace.

She was sent to prison by Leicester Crown Court in July after appealing against the sentence and refusing to pay the £50.

The principal sponsor of the motion is Mr Bruce Groat, Labour MP for Lichfield and Tamworth, in whose constituency Mrs Waters lives. Another sponsor, Mr Philip Whitehead, MP, said yesterday that Mrs Waters had been sent to prison under the Justice of the Peace Act, 1351.



Queen Elizabeth II in her coronation robes.

Painting of Elizabeth I for National Portrait Gallery

By Huon Mallalieu

The only known painting of Queen Elizabeth I in her coronation robes was acquired by the National Portrait Gallery at Sotheby's yesterday for £25,000. Sotheby's gave £5,000 and Hugh Leggett, who bid for the painting on the gallery's behalf, gave £1,000 towards the total.

The painting has in the past been attributed to Holbein and to Quentin Matsys, but its true authorship is uncertain. The same image of the Queen, with her hair over her shoulders, and wearing a "mantle of cloth of gold, dressed with gold and silver, furred with powdered ermine" formed the pattern for official depictions of her on coins, documents and her first seal.

There is also a miniature copy of the portrait by Nicholas Hilliard in the collection of the Duke of Portland at Welbeck Abbey.

Until the eighteenth century it was customary for monarchs to be crowned with their hair loose, even if that meant using a special hairpiece. The Queen also wears the crown, a jewelled collar and girdle and a chain of rubies and pearls. The costume appears in the royal wardrobe inventory of 1600, where there is a note of "one kirtle the traine and skirts furred with powdered ermine, the rest lined with sarconnet, with a pair of bodies and sleeves to the same".

The painting, which seems in good condition, was formerly in the collection of the Earls of Warwick at Warwick Castle.

Other sale news, page 21

Inquiry into availability of loans for fishing boats

By Our Parliamentary Staff

Reports that loans are not to be made available next year for new fishing boats are being investigated by Mr Bishop, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries.

Mr Douglas Henderson, Scottish National Party MP for Aberdeen, East, said to a Commons standing committee White Fish Authority which said that it had been hoping to formulate a policy for new building but that had not been possible because EEC fisheries policy was not yet complete. "We are continuing to approve applications for new fishing vessels but our policy is an interim one of containment of the fleet," the letter said. Mr Henderson said there were rumours among fishermen that there might be no loans at all during the coming year.

At present, fishermen having new boats built for them get up to a quarter of the cost by grant, and up to half by loan.

After the committee had approved continuation for further year orders providing for grants for fishing vessels, Mr Henderson spoke privately to the minister.

Mr Henderson said afterwards that Mr Bishop had promised to look into the matter. He said that in spite of the difficulties of the industry it was important for new building to continue to replace old vessels.

Professor Max Beloff joins Conservatives

Professor Max Beloff, a former Liberal, has joined the Conservatives. Formerly Glasgow professor of Government and Public Administration at Oxford University, he was a past president and member of Oxford City Liberal Association until he resigned from the party in 1972.

Liberal policies on education, defence, industrial democracy and finally the pact with Labour had convinced him that the Liberals had lost their way. Professor Beloff, now Principal of the Independent University College, at Buckingham, said: "Classical Liberalism was concerned with the development of the individual and the breaking down of social, political and religious barriers, but that grand in the British political tradition seems to have gone into the Conservative Party".

Cambridge virus identified

The virus that caused the death of three babies at Mill Road Maternity Hospital, Cambridge, was identified yesterday as an echo virus, type 11, one of 33 echo types in the entero family.

It is not a new virus, but its effect was fatal in a unit where weak, premature or ill babies had little resistance.

£15,000 theft at cathedral

The theft of 250 bronze bars worth £15,000 that were to be used in the framework of Liverpool Cathedral's great Benedictine window over the west door has delayed completion of the building, on which work started in 1964.

The cathedral is expected to be finished in late autumn next year.

Delay likely on Southend pier

Repairs to Southend pier, badly damaged in a £13m fire last year, are likely to be delayed for at least a year, a council official said yesterday.

Town councillors are pressing for rebuilding work to be halted in an effort to avert a rise in next year. The policy and resources committee wants repairs to be abandoned.

WEST EUROPE

Resignation of Defence Minister demanded as Herr Schmidt is attacked over Bonn spying scandal

From Patricia Chough
Bonn, Dec 14

The Opposition today demanded the resignation of Herr Georg Leber, the West German Defence Minister, and attacked Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, for what called the biggest spy case the country has known.

Herr Eberhard Kohl, the Christian Democratic leader, said the Chancellor had joined responsibility for the serious scandal in which photocopies of more than 1,000 top secret documents from the Defence Ministry were passed to East Germany.

Herr Schmidt told the Cabinet today that the case should under no circumstances be played down or made light of, although he emphasized that he did not share the Opposition's view of it, the Government spokesman said.

Herr Kohl's demand for Herr Leber's resignation came as the shocked cabinet began to react to the news that many vital

West German and Nato military secrets appear to have been betrayed.

According to a Defence Ministry analysis of information collected by the investigators, they included details of the structure and state of the West German armed forces, their future plans, their arms and stand-by planning and their knowledge of the state of the Warsaw Pact forces.

The parliamentary defence committee today decided to investigate the affair after a brief and uninformative appearance by Herr Leber. The minister reportedly told them that Dr Kurt Rebmann, the federal prosecutor, was in charge of the case and they should look to him for information.

He said he could say no more than he told the press yesterday and, despite a threat to stay, left hurriedly for an engagement with the visiting Portuguese President.

Already irritated that the

minister had chosen to speak to the press first, the defence committee has turned itself into an investigating committee and is proposing to look into questions which an opposition spokesman said Herr Leber "clearly does not want to face."

It is expected also to go into allegations that investigations were obstructed by high-ranking ministry officials. The opposition members in particular want to know how the chief of the personnel department, whose secretary is alleged to have photocopied the documents, had access to top secrets which apparently did not concern his work.

Disciplinary proceedings against the chief of the personnel department, Dr Herbert Laube, were opened yesterday at Dr Laube's own request and he was suspended from his post.

A brief debate on the affair which was scheduled for question time in Parliament was cancelled after the committee decided to start investigations.

Husband's plea to kidnap gang

From Patricia Chough
Vienna, Dec 14

Herr Leopold Leber, a 45-year-old businessman, today urged the kidnappers of his wife, Lotte, to make contact with him. He told them her health was deteriorating.

He broadcast his appeal more than 40 hours after two masked gunmen seized Mrs Leber, who is 42, outside her Vienna home on Monday night. Friends say she needs regular medical treatment following a major operation.

Police, facing their second kidnap here in five weeks, are working on several theories, including a possible link with the West German Baader-Meinhof terrorist group, who were behind the abduction last month of Herr Walter Michael Palmers, an Austrian millionaire, who was released after his family paid a ransom of 31 million schillings (£1,760,000).

—Reuter.

Canaries separatists shoot policemen

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Dec 14

Canary Islands separatists shot two policemen in Tenerife today, in the aftermath of the fatal shooting of a student demonstrator by police on Monday.

The policemen are reported to be recovering, although a hospital spokesman in the island's capital, Santa Cruz, said that one of them may have to have an arm amputated.

It was the second day running that shootings had been fired at policemen in the island from a car during darkness.

The extremist organization, Movement for the Self-Determination and Independence of the Canary Islands, claimed responsibility for the attacks in a telephone call to a local newspaper.

The two policemen were shot while they stood guard outside a Santa Cruz store to prevent looting following a fire which

had been started a few hours earlier by a gang of youths throwing petrol bombs.

Specially trained riot-control police were flown to Tenerife from Zaragoza and Madrid.

As protests grew about the use of bullets by police in dealing with disturbances such as took place at La Laguna university in Tenerife on Monday, Señor Adolfo Suárez conferred this morning in Madrid with Señor Rodolfo Martín Villa, the Interior Minister.

In Salamanca, one of the highest ranking members of the Civil Guard, Brigadier General Manuel Prieto López, said: "We are sorry about all the deaths, but we cannot just let ourselves be killed without using the means which have been placed in our hands".

The dead student, Javier Fernández, aged 23, was buried in Las Palmas, on the neighbouring island of Gran Canaria, yesterday afternoon.

Growing number of French floating voters

From Ian Murray
Paris, Dec 14

With just 87 days left until the general elections 20 per cent of the French voters still cannot make up their mind which party they will choose to represent them in the next National Assembly. This uncommitted group is unusually large, says one of the committed supporters except the Socialists, according to the Sofres opinion poll published in Le Figaro today.

An analysis of the voting intentions of the 80 per cent who now say they have made up their minds is very similar to all recent polls. The left has 50 per cent support, the Majority coalition can expect 47 per cent support and the ecologists get the remaining three per cent on the first round.

There are no surprises in this and the big question must still be whether most of the undecided 20 per cent—once past last month—will opt for a change or the status quo when the election comes.

S Africa's submarine is launched

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Dec 14

The first of the two submarines ordered by South Africa from the shipyards of Dubigeon-Normandie in Nantes was launched into the Loire last night without any ceremony. Originally due in September, the launch was delayed by a series of strikes at the shipyard.

Although France has undertaken under the United Nations Security Council's arms embargo agreed last month not to deliver the submarines or the escort vessels ordered by South Africa, work is going ahead to finish them. An assurance policy was taken out covering interruption of work for "political motives".

One of the two escort vessels, the Good Hope, is moored in the inner harbour in Lorient. Its sea trials were suspended when the arms embargo was agreed.

Bonn dismisses report of missile tests

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, Dec 14

The West German Defence Ministry today dismissed as "pure nonsense" a report that it is secretly testing Cruise and intermediate-range ballistic missiles in Zaire.

A West German space and communication company, however, said that it is testing satellite-launching rockets for peaceful commercial purposes over a tract of land it has leased in Zaire.

Both the firm and the ministry said there was no truth in the claim by *Penthouse* magazine that the company was testing missiles for the Government and was receiving support from the West German military budget.

Polisario to free Frenchmen 'soon'

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 14

The eight French technicians held as hostages by the Polisario Front—six were taken in May, and two in October—are to be freed soon, the Front informed M François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, in a personal message last night.

A statement issued by Socialist Party headquarters today said that he had been told that the men were in good health, were well treated, and that the Polisario Front had decided to release them. Their families' lawyers had been informed.

This confirms recent rumours that the hostages would be freed about Christmas of the New Year. Asked why the Polisario Front has passed the information to the Socialist Party, a party spokesman said that the Western Sahara rebels wished to show their gratitude to the French Socialists for urging the French Government to recognize them.

A year ago, M Mitterrand had criticized the Government's refusal to consider the aspirations of the Saharoui people out of deference to the wishes of Morocco. Early last month, a delegation of the French Socialist Party went to Algiers and met representatives of the Polisario Front to negotiate the release of the hostages.

Attempts made by the Government about the same time to negotiate through M Claude Chayet were unsuccessful. M Chayet, who went to Algiers several times to meet members of the Polisario Front, was told that the Frenchmen were not hostages but prisoners of war, because France had failed to recognize the Front.

M Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, also announced just before leaving Algiers today that the hostages would soon be freed.

He visited Algiers at the head of a large delegation and met President Boumedienne of Algeria privately for an hour yesterday.

The decision to release the hostages is felt in Paris to be the upshot of realization by the Polisario rebels that their continued detention would do more harm than good to their cause.



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OVERSEAS

Smith insistence on special MPs for white voters dims hopes of early agreement in Salisbury

From Nicholas Ashford Salisbury, Dec 14

Settlement talks between the Rhodesian Government and three internally based nationalist movements ran into difficulties today over the Government's insistence on whites retaining a "blocking third" of votes in a future multiracial National Assembly.

Today's discussions, the fifth meeting to be held since the four parties started their talks at the beginning of this month, lasted for three hours, but by all appearances the atmosphere was not as cordial as during previous meetings. Some of the delegates were stony-faced when they left the meeting and none of them made any formal comment to the press.

The talks are to continue tomorrow afternoon, indicating that all parties are anxious to avoid a breakdown at this stage. But hopes that a broad agreement might have been reached by the end of this week now seem unlikely to be fulfilled.

A four-line statement issued at the end of the meeting merely noted that discussion had continued on the questions of parliamentary representation and constitutional safeguards and that progress had been made. However, unlike previous statements, there

were no references to the talks having been friendly or frank.

Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, is understood to be demanding that a third of the seats in a future parliament should be held by whites who would be elected on the basis of a white voters' roll. The remaining two thirds would be held by blacks elected by blacks only.

Two of the nationalist leaders—Bishop Abel Muzorewa of the United African National Council (UANC) and Rev Ndabaningi Sithole of the African National Council (Sithole)—are opposed to this proposal, particularly the separation of white and black voters' rolls. It is understood that they might accept the principle of a "blocking third" in Parliament but only on the basis of common roll elections.

There are two reasons for their objections to the Government's proposals. First, they would involve a continuation of Rhodesia's racial divisions, which the nationalists wish to see removed. Second, the election of white MPs by whites would only perpetuate the fact that most of the existing Rhodesian Front members would retain their seats.

However, Mr Smith maintains that any other constitutional safeguards are worthless

unless there is a built-in blocking mechanism to prevent retrogressive amendments to the constitution. He has argued that he could not gain acceptance of a settlement by the white electorate without agreement on this point.

Tory view: Mr John Davies the Conservative spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, urged the British Government yesterday to persuade the Patriotic Front and particularly its joint leader, Mr Joshua Nkomo, to take part in the negotiations and eventual free elections.

Speaking in Chelsea, Mr Davies said: "Mr Nkomo must realize, being the astute politician that he is, that the chances of bringing about a violent solution leaving him in command, have receded considerably."

"If Mr Smith's discussions with the other nationalist leaders do lead to agreement on a constitution and thereafter to an election which clearly indicates the will of the Rhodesian people, then he is going to have a virtually impossible task to upset it."

"On the other hand, if he takes part in the internal settlement, he has a powerful hand to play."

Western journalists are shown camp for refugee children from Rhodesia

Mr Nkomo's youngest recruits

From a Correspondent Victoria Camp, Zambia, Dec 14

The sound can first be heard from far off, somewhere in the midst of the tents and roundabouts at the crest of the hill. Slowly it grows louder and the rhythmic chant: "Hey, hey, hey" becomes distinguishable.

Finally, from beyond a bend in the muddy path, emerges the stage of the camp, a seemingly endless river of children moving at a slow run to the beat of the chant.

When finally, 4,000 strong, they assemble in a neat by field, the children sing the praises of "Nkomo, the leader with great qualities". For these are the children of Rhodesia, the young members of Mr Joshua Nkomo's "struggle", whom the Rhodesian African nationalist leader showed to a group of Western journalists.

This camp, about 16 miles east of Lusaka, is the nursery of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu), Mr Nkomo's wing of the Patriotic Front.

While their parents or older brothers and sisters are in military training, or inside Rhodesia itself fighting the bush war, these children are cared for and provided with an education.

About 3,200, mostly girls, live in this camp, and an equal number of boys are housed at a smaller camp nearby.

There are at present some 26,000 Rhodesian refugees in Zambia, according to United Nations figures. Most arrive here through Botswana. Cross-

ing directly into Zambia from Rhodesia is difficult, because of the Zambezi river which divides the two countries. Rhodesia's border with Botswana is sparsely patrolled and with natural barriers many Rhodesians simply walk into that country.

They are housed by the Botswana Government at transit camps at Selit, Peka and Francistown. Then quickly flown to Lusaka at Zambian Government expense.

Approximately 1,500 refugees make the trip each month, according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

Once inside Zambia, many of the men and women board Aeroflot flights to Angola where they are trained by Cuban advisers according to guerrilla tactics. Others remain at the Zapu military bases in Zambia.

It is believed that some 5,000 guerrillas are in training, with about the same number ready for battle.

Much controversy surrounds the children, Rhodesia has repeatedly said that many of them were abducted from their homes or orphaned by Patriotic Front guerrillas.

The most recent important incident occurred early this year when about 400 students crossed into Botswana from a Swedish Lutheran mission school at Maitane, Rhodesia, about 10 miles from the border. Zapu allowed the children's parents to come and talk with

them, but only 53 decided to return to their homes.

"A lot of stupid stories have been made up about these children", Mr Nkomo said. He insisted that all the children in the camps had crossed over "of their own free will".

Whether their parents are alive or not, all the children are in reality "war orphans". Mr Nkomo said all would remain at the camps for two to three years after Rhodesian independence.

Throughout the visit, as journalists inspected the large military-type tents, the primitive kitchen, little more than a tin roof over an open fire, the sound of the children singing filled the air.

Money to run the camps comes from several international relief organizations and is administered by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

A school and dormitories are being built by two Yugoslav firms, with materials supplied by the East Germans. The children are taught primary school basics, including English, and receive political indoctrination in open air classes.

Mr Nkomo told the Western journalists they had been brought to the camp to see that the children were being well-treated and that the "vicious lies" allegations that they were being starved or slaughtered to save money to buy guns.

Karamanlis speech lays blame on Turks

From Mario Modiano, Athens, Dec 14

Mr Constantine Karamanlis, the Greek Prime Minister, told Parliament tonight that the blame for the Greek-Turkish disputes rested squarely on Turkey. "It is Turkey, not Greece, that seeks to alter the legal status both in Cyprus and in Aegean," he said.

The Prime Minister was reading his Government's statement of policy to the newly elected Parliament.

Mr Karamanlis said: "Turkey, through its actions, is trying to mobilize international reactions against her. Greece would wish that the speeches should be counterbalanced by constructive proposals on the substance of the Cyprus problem."

The Greek-Turkish dialogue in the Aegean had been steadily, he said, because of Turkey's frequent changes of heart.

He reaffirmed that "Greece's place is, by dint of tradition and necessity, in the democratic West". Those who advocated severing these links were "playing Turkey's game since Turkey's strength would then be multiplied at the expense of Greece."

The Prime Minister said the EEC entry negotiations were "developing normally" and his Government was seeking a special relationship with Nato, having pulled out of the integrated military structure.

He said his Government was granting military facilities to the United States only because this served Greece's defence interests.

Mr Karamanlis said these foreign issues, which would become crucial in the coming year, were hand in hand with the reinforcement of the country's defences.

Sinav Fisek writes from Ankara: The seething unrest within Turkey's ruling Justice Party came to a head today with the resignation of two more deputies from its ranks, leaving Mr Demirel's coalition Government in a minority.

Two sources close to the Government said they did not discount the possibility of Mr Demirel's resignation.

Pro-Western guerrillas claim Angola successes

Lisbon, Dec 14.—Pro-Western guerrilla groups claimed today that they had destroyed a Soviet-made Antonov 26 transport aircraft in Angola, causing numerous Cuban and East European casualties.

They said their forces massacred one Cuban garrison stationed in a suburb of Bie, formerly alive Port, and razed three hotels housing East European technicians in the port of Lobito.

The attacks were part of a co-ordinated guerrilla assault on urban areas in response to anti-guerrilla campaigns launched in the countryside by reinforced Cuban and Government troops, the groups said.

The National Union for Angola's Total Independence (UNITA) said it had launched 11 attacks in the past three weeks on almost every important town in central Angola and had cut the strategic Benguela railway in several places.

Sources with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNL) said its forces had been given similar orders for action in the north, but that they still had not received reports on the attacks because of communication difficulties.

In the Lobito raid, 10 East German technicians were killed, as well as an unknown number of Bulgarian officials and Cuban troops protecting them.

He said the guerrillas also

shot down a helicopter attacking them and destroyed a Soviet-made Antonov 26 transport aircraft on the ground.

The aircraft was blown up in Bie, where the electricity was knocked out by the destruction of a nearby hydroelectric dam.

Both UNITA and the FNL have been fighting in the jungle since the Marxist Popular movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) gained control of the country with Cuban military backing in a civil war two years ago.

As a prelude to the latest outbreak of violence, the size of the Cuban Army stationed in Angola was increased from 15,000 to an estimated 19,000 men.

Recent Western intelligence reports have indicated that these extra forces might have been sent to Angola pending a decision by Cuba to use them to intervene more heavily in the fighting in Eritropia. The reports said this was indicated by the transfer of a leading Cuban combat commander, General Arnaldo Ochoa, to Addis Ababa.

The reports said the 2,000 Cubans already in Ethiopia were too small a force to rate such a senior commander.

In contrast, the need for more Cuban troops to preserve security in Angola has been growing more evident in recent months.—UPI.

Bucharest's shattered homes rise again

From Dossa Trevisan Bucharest, Dec 14

Nine months after Bucharest was devastated by one of the worst earthquakes in Europe for 100 years, only a few empty sites on the main boulevards stand as reminders of the death and destruction inflicted on the city of March 4.

The mayor claimed 1,420 lives and injured more than 7,000. Five thousand people were made homeless and more than half the houses in the city of two million people were damaged.

Today, no one speaks of the tragedy. When the press referred to the Romanian press, it is to illustrate that a nation united under the Communist Party and its leader, President Ceausescu, is capable of achieving wonders.

Bucharest certainly has made a remarkable recovery. Today a visitor would find it hard to believe that only nine months ago some of the freshly painted buildings were ripped asunder by the tremor.

It took an enormous effort to remove most traces of the earthquake but an even greater accomplishment was the fact that the industrial plan for this year was exceeded by more than 1 per cent.

Houses had to be found for the 5,000 homeless and today Mr Tumirescu, vice-chairman of the Bucharest town council, can claim that there is no one without a roof over his head.

Those who lost everything were moved to 4,000 new flats. Their homes were furnished with radio and television sets,

refrigerators and linen. Suits were given to the men and dresses to the women, as well as footwear and underclothing. They also received a grant of £50 each.

There has been concern among citizens who owned their own flats about some shoddy repairs done by the state enterprises. Many have had to pay for repairs because the state insurance covers only part of the cost.

Mr Tumirescu said that 104 university buildings, 230 schools, 48 hospitals and more than 1,065 shops and 181 cultural institutions, theatres and museums were damaged.

Of the 44 hospitals damaged 34 are fully repaired today as well as all the university buildings and schools.



Empty chair: Soviet leaders around Mr Brezhnev's vacant front seat voting in unison yesterday.

Mr Brezhnev absent as budget is presented

Moscow, Dec 14.—President Brezhnev was mysteriously absent today when the Supreme Soviet, the country's Parliament over whose work he nominally presides, met to approve economic plans and a budget for 1978.

His seat on the leadership benches under a statue of Lenin in the Kremlin Palace was empty.

It was believed to be the first time for some years that Mr Brezhnev has failed to appear for the start of the winter session of the Supreme Soviet.

Western analysts said it was especially strange since Mr Brezhnev, the party leader since 1964, had been elected chairman of the Supreme Soviet's permanent Presidium only in May, and this would have been his first full regular session in the post.

Soviet officials at the session declined to discuss reasons for his absence and Western diplomats attending the session said they knew of no pressing

business that might have kept him away.

Mr Brezhnev, who is 71 on Monday, yesterday delivered what was officially described as a "long speech" on the economy to the party's policy-making Central Committee.

It was announced in Boun today that Mr Brezhnev has postponed a meeting with Herr Willy Brandt, the president of the Social Democratic Party, scheduled for Friday in Moscow. Herr Brandt's spokesman said Moscow gave no reason for the sudden postponement.

Before hearing a report on the economy in 1977, the assembly unanimously approved the appointment of three new members of the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

At the Supreme Soviet session Mr Vasily Garbuzov, the Finance Minister, and Mr Nikolai Baibakov, the head of the State Planning Committee, announced exceptionally modest economic targets for 1978, including the smallest increase in industrial production since the Second World War

and an unchanged defence allocation.

Mr Baibakov said overall industrial production would rise by a total of 4.5 per cent next year, compared to the already modest 5.8 projected for 1977.

Heavy industry, traditionally a priority area, would raise output by only 4.7 per cent compared to an estimated 6.6 per cent for the present year. This will be the smallest increase since 1945.

Labour productivity, a key indicator in Moscow's drive for industrial efficiency, is set to increase by 3.5 per cent, only 0.2 per cent higher than the 1976 rise which was the lowest for at least 25 years.

Mr Baibakov, surveying the year's economic performance, said productivity was not growing fast enough. He took several sectors, including the railway, metal and building industries to task for shortcomings.

Mr Garbuzov announced that Russia's defence spending will lead to a steady rise next year at 17.200m roubles (£13,000m).

Mr Garbuzov said Moscow

pursued a peace-loving foreign policy, but "at the same time it is taking care of the country's security and defence capacity."

There had been minor cuts in declared defence spending for 1975 and 1977.

But Western defence analysts believe the publicized figures cover only operating and military construction costs, leaving out weapon procurement and research. They say actual Soviet spending on defence needs could be three to four times the stated budget figure.

Turning to agriculture, he announced that the Soviet Union's grain crop this year totalled 195,500,000 tonnes.

Earlier in the session Mr Baibakov had announced average grain production figures which indicated a 1977 grain harvest of 195,400,000 tonnes. There was no explanation for the slight discrepancy.

Mr Baibakov said bad weather had led to poor grain and sunflower crops and a drop in poultry production.—Reuter and UPI.

Cairo priority for Palestine issue

Continued from page 1

but they are still determined to make sure that the Palestinian issue is given priority. What they are really looking for, it seems, is an Israeli commitment to negotiate at Geneva on the basis of withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of Palestinian rights.

The Israeli delegates here are certainly not mandated to give such a commitment, and it would be unrealistic to expect any real progress in these talks before Mr Begin's meeting with President Carter on Friday.

Moshe Brilliant writes from Tel Aviv: Mr Begin flew suddenly in the United States this morning, apparently to solicit President Carter's support for proposals he will present to Egypt when present talks in Cairo escalate into a meeting

of foreign ministers after the Christmas break.

The Prime Minister confirmed in an interview in Jerusalem yesterday that the draft peace treaty being presented at the Cairo talks did not cover the tough issues of permanent boundaries or the Palestinian problem.

However, Mr Moshe Dayan, the Foreign Minister, and others have cautioned that Israel will not be able to put off much longer laying their cards on the table.

While Mr Begin was vague when answering questions at the airport about what he was taking to Washington, Mr Ezer Weizman, the Defence Minister, told newspaper editors he was carrying detailed proposals for a comprehensive peace settlement which had been discussed and approved yesterday at a

meeting of the ministerial foreign affairs and security committee.

New York: Mr Begin flew into New York today for his meeting with President Carter on Friday.

Praising the President's contribution towards peace-making efforts in the Middle East, Mr Begin said that many events, some of them quite dramatic, had taken place since he was in Washington in July, "and I felt President Carter should be informed in detail about all those events."

He added: "We do hope that this visit will be a contribution to the peace-making process being attached to the cost of living. With high unemployment, rising benefits and increasing numbers of pensioners, the system would have gone into the red next year."

The new law, which passed a joint committee of the two Houses of Congress this morning, ought to ensure the system's solvency until the end of the century.

There will be no increases in social security payments next year, which happens to be election year, under the new law, although workers' contributions will go up under existing law. This year's maximum payment is \$865 and next year's will be \$1,071—5.85 per cent of wages up to a maximum salary of \$16,500 this year and \$17,700 in 1978.

Workers and employers will continue to contribute equal sums, despite a vigorous effort by some congressmen to make employers pay more.

Under the new law, the maximum salary to be taxed will increase progressively to \$42,600 in 1987 and the maximum percentage to be paid to 7.15 per cent—making a maximum social security contribution of \$3,046 each by worker and employer.

Everyone will pay the same percentage, and the new rate has therefore been denounced as regressive.

Big US tax rise to meet welfare benefits

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Dec 14

Congress agreed this morning on increases in social security contributions amounting to \$227,000m (about £126,000m) over the next decade. It is by far the biggest tax increase in American peacetime history.

The American social security system is wholly financed out of its revenue. Its benefits, lavishly by European standards, are firmly attached to the cost of living. With high unemployment, rising benefits and increasing numbers of pensioners, the system would have gone into the red next year.

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Saudis promise support for peace efforts

Riyadh, Dec 14.—Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, was assured today of Saudi support for efforts to achieve a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement, a State Department spokesman said.

After more than three hours of talks here, Mr Vance felt Saudi Arabia is playing and intends to play a constructive role towards a peaceful evolution of the problems in the Middle East, the spokesman said.

The Saudis were "totally committed to assisting in any way they can to a comprehensive peace settlement and the pursuit of peace. That role is ongoing right now."

Saudi Arabia has expressed no public support for the solo peace moves of President Sadat of Egypt. American officials say this is because the Saudis are trying to play a mediating role between Egypt and Syria.

President Assad of Syria saw Saudi leaders last week.

King Hussein of Jordan, who also is trying to heal the splits in the Arab world that followed Mr Sadat's visit to Israel, is due here on Saturday. It was announced here today.

Mr Vance's talks also encouraged him to believe that oil prices will not be increased at the meeting of the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Caracas on December 29, the spokesman said.

The Secretary of State reported to the Saudi leaders on his talks in Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. He returns to Washington tomorrow morning and will report immediately to President Carter.

On Friday morning, Mr Vance and President Carter will see Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, who left early today for Washington.—Reuter.

In brief

Korchnoi on top at adjournment

Belgrade, Dec 14.—Viktor Korchnoi and Boris Spassky today adjourned the ninth game of their 20-game series to decide who will play Anatoly Karpov for the world chess championship.

Experts said that Korchnoi, playing white, was in a better position when he sealed his forty-second move. He leads the series 6-2.

Team die in air crash

Evansville, Indiana, Dec 14.—A chartered DC3 twin-engine aircraft, with 29 people on board, including the basketball team of the University of Evansville, crashed into a brush-covered ravine shortly after take-off in dense fog last night, killing all the occupants.

Girl feared drowned

Abu Dhabi, Dec 14.—Police fear that a seven-year-old British girl who disappeared here at the weekend may have drowned. A spokesman said police considered it unlikely that Michelle Finch, daughter of Mr Peter Finch and his wife, Jenny, had been abducted.

Stranger strikes again

Los Angeles, Dec 14.—Police suspect that a murderer they have called "the hitlister" strangled a young girl found strangled and nude on a brush-covered hill at dawn. She was the eleventh such victim since early November.

US farmers protest

Washington, Dec 14.—Fifty tractors, one for each state, drove slowly round the White House in the rain here to mark the start of a national strike by United States farmers, who are protesting about rising costs and falling prices.

Curbing arms sales

Washington, Dec 14.—The United States and the Soviet Union opened talks here on the possibility of restricting sales of conventional weapons to Third World nations.

Team die in air crash

Evansville, Indiana, Dec 14.—A chartered DC3 twin-engine aircraft, with 29 people on board, including the basketball team of the University of Evansville, crashed into a brush-covered ravine shortly after take-off in dense fog last night, killing all the occupants.

Girl feared drowned

Stranger strikes again

US farmers protest

Curbing arms sales

New York court told of horrors in Nazi camp

From Michael Leapman New York, Dec 14

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Mr Maikovskis is not on trial for such offences. The hearing is in an immigration court, it is to determine whether he made a false declaration to obtain a United States visa in 1951.

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Mr Maikovskis came to the United States from Germany in 1951. If the case results in his deportation, he could be sent to the Soviet Union, where he had been sentenced to death in absentia for war crimes.

Apart from one emotional clash with Mr Maikovskis's lawyer, the onlookers sat attentively as Mrs Gordon, speaking in Yiddish through an interpreter, gave an account of life in a detention centre near Dvinsk in the autumn of 1941.

Mr Maikovskis, who has cited the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination and refused to give evidence, was dressed in a sober blue suit with a red tie and heavy black glasses. A very mean-looking sideburns who looks fit for his age, he sat two chairs away from Mrs Gordon.

Mrs Gordon said she had been a teacher, living in the ghetto area of Dvinsk with her husband and two children, a 10-year-old daughter and her mother. Her husband had died in 1936.

When the Germans invaded she fled from the city but one night, with some 14,000 other Jews, she was taken to the detention centre, a two-storey building in Courtyards.

"Every day 'actions' took place and they took people away so there became fewer and fewer people," she said.

"Actions" is the word she and other witnesses used for the Germans' practice of assembling people in the courtyard in two groups. One of the groups would be led away, never to be seen again. "They said they were taking them back where they came from, but it was not true," Mrs Gordon said.

Mr Maikovskis, according to the witnesses, played a leading role in the actions. "He took women named Frieda, Vaiskind," Mrs Gordon said. "Her little girl was with her."

"He pushed her and she fell down and he pushed her to the other side [the group to be liquidated]. He beat her with a police club. She fell and he pushed her and kicked her."

For more than an hour, Mrs Gordon catalogued similar occurrences: a pregnant woman kicked as she fell to the ground; a singing teacher chosen for "liquidation" because he was alleged to have taught children to sing the "Internationale".

Eventually, the lawyer asked whether Mrs Gordon could be the man responsible in the courtroom. She gestured towards Mr Maikovskis and, for the first time, showed emotion. She asked for a drink of water and there was a short recess to let her recover her composure.

During the recess the emotions of some of the spectators also boiled to the surface. They directed their spleen mainly to Mr Joseph Lombardo, the defence lawyer. "How does it feel to be sitting next to a murderer?" one woman shouted.

The judge returned to warn solemnly of the consequences of any further outbursts. The hearing resumed. The arid descriptions of beastliness continued.

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Sports

Racing

Sponsors boost value of July Cup and Cambridgeshire

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

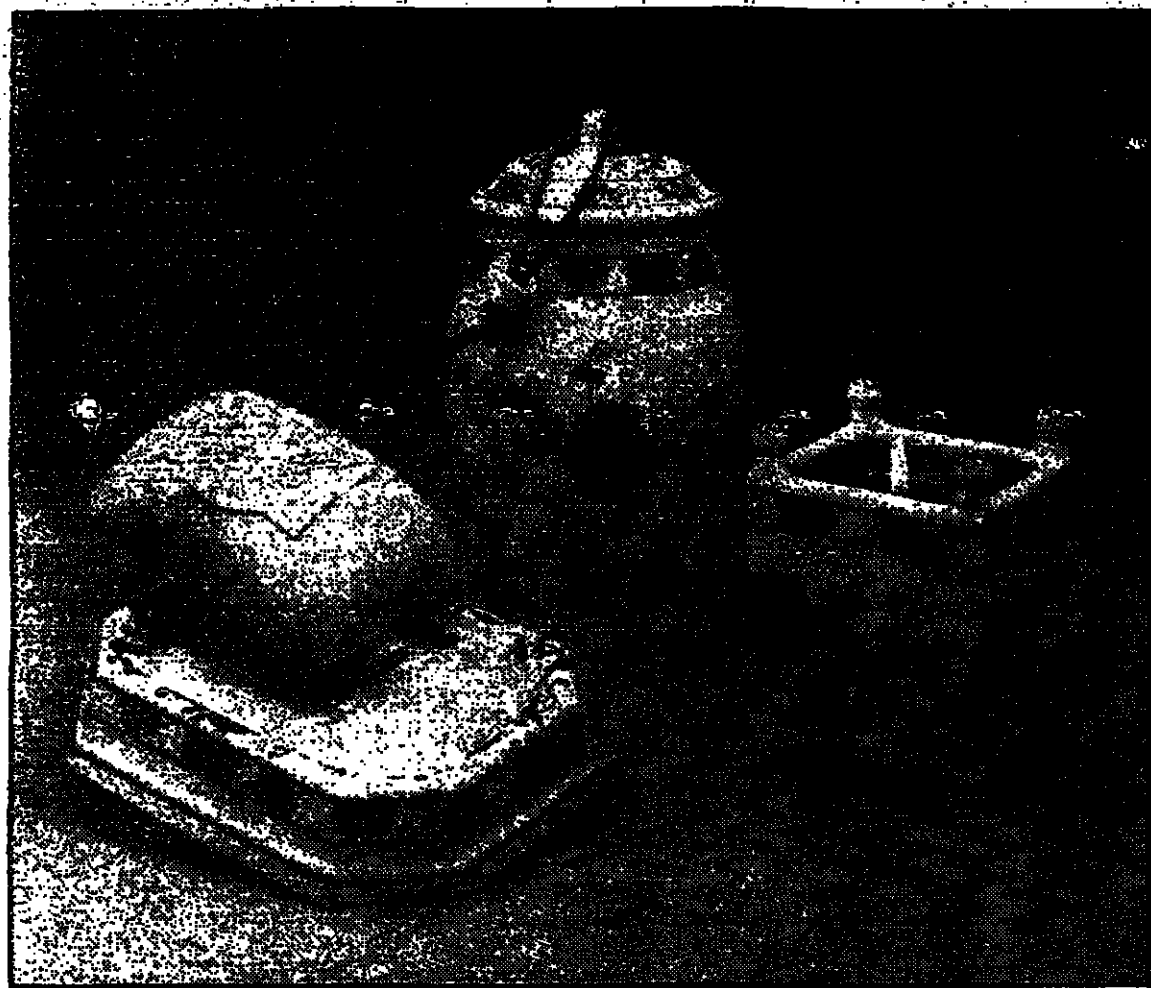
Newmarket and Doncaster are the courses that will benefit the most from the new sponsors of the July Cup and the Cambridgeshire. The new sponsors, who have agreed to sponsor the races for three years, are the William Hill Organisation and the Cambridge and Doncaster Racecourses. The new sponsors have agreed to sponsor the races for three years, from 1978 to 1980. The new sponsors have agreed to sponsor the races for three years, from 1978 to 1980. The new sponsors have agreed to sponsor the races for three years, from 1978 to 1980.

Carlisle programme

12.45 CURRY STEEPCHASE (Handicap: £524: 2m)	1-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-1261-1262-1263-1264-1265-1266-1267-1268-1269-1270-1271-1272-1273-1274-1275-1276-1277-1278-1279-1280-1281-1282-1283-1284-1285-1286-1287-1288-1289-1290-1291-1292-1293-1294-1295-1296-1297-1298-1299-1300-1301-1302-1303-1304-1305-1306-1307-1308-1309-1310-1311-1312-1313-1314-1315-1316-1317-1318-1319-1320-1321-1322-1323-1324-1325-1326-1327-1328-1329-1330-1331-1332-1333-1334-1335-1336-1337-1338-1339-1340-1341-1342-1343-1344-1345-1346-1347-1348-1349-1350-1351-1352-1353-1354-1355-1356-1357-1358-1359-1360-1361-1362-1363-1364-1365-1366-1367-1368-1369-1370-1371-1372-1373-1374-1375-1376-1377-1378-1379-1380-1381-1382-1383-1384-1385-1386-1387-1388-1389-1390-1391-1392-1393-1394-1395-1396-1397-1398-1399-1400-1401-1402-1403-1404-1405-1406-1407-1408-1409-1410-1411-1412-1413-1414-1415-1416-1417-1418-1419-1420-1421-1422-1423-1424-1425-1426-1427-1428-1429-1430-1431-1432-1433-1434-1435-1436-1437-1438-1439-1440-1441-1442-1443-1444-1445-1446-1447-1448-1449-1450-1451-1452-1453-1454-1455-1456-1457-1458-1459-1460-1461-1462-1463-1464-1465-1466-1467-1468-1469-1470-1471-1472-1473-1474-1475-1476-1477-1478-1479-1480-1481-1482-1483-1484-1485-1486-1487-1488-1489-1490-1491-1492-1493-1494-1495-1496-1497-1498-1499-1500-1501-1502-1503-1504-1505-1506-1507-1508-1509-1510-1511-1512-1513-1514-1515-1516-1517-1518-1519-1520-1521-1522-1523-1524-1525-1526-1527-1528-1529-1530-1531-1532-1533-1534-1535-1536-1537-1538-1539-1540-1541-1542-1543-1544-1545-1546-1547-1548-1549-1550-1551-1552-1553-1554-1555-1556-1557-1558-1559-1560-1561-1562-1563-1564-1565-1566-1567-1568-1569-1570-1571-1572-1573-1574-1575-1576-1577-1578-1579-1580-1581-1582-1583-1584-1585-1586-1587-1588-1589-1590-1591-1592-1593-1594-1595-1596-1597-1598-1599-1600-1601-1602-1603-1604-1605-1606-1607-1608-1609-1610-1611-1612-1613-1614-1615-1616-1617-1618-1619-1620-1621-1622-1623-1624-1625-1626-1627-1628-1629-1630-1631-1632-1633-1634-1635-1636-1637-1638-1639-1640-1641-1642-1643-1644-1645-1646-1647-1648-1649-1650-1651-1652-1653-1654-1655-1656-1657-1658-1659-1660-1661-1662-1663-1664-1665-1666-1667-1668-1669-1670-1671-1672-1673-1674-1675-1676-1677-1678-1679-1680-1681-1682-1683-1684-1685-1686-1687-1688-1689-1690-1691-1692-1693-1694-1695-1696-1697-1698-1699-1700-1701-1702-1703-1704-1705-1706-1707-1708-1709-1710-1711-1712-1713-1714-1715-1716-1717-1718-1719-1720-1721-1722-1723-1724-1725-1726-1727-1728-1729-1730-1731-1732-1733-1734-1735-1736-1737-1738-1739-1740-1741-1742-1743-1744-1745-1746-1747-1748-1749-1750-1751-1752-1753-1754-1755-1756-1757-1758-1759-1760-1761-1762-1763-1764-1765-1766-1767-1768-1769-1770-1771-1772-1773-1774-1775-1776-1777-1778-1779-1780-1781-1782-1783-1784-1785-1786-1787-1788-1789-1790-1791-1792-1793-1794-1795-1796-1797-1798-1799-1800-1801-1802-1803-1804-1805-1806-1807-1808-1809-1810-1811-1812-1813-1814-1815-1816-1817-1818-1819-1820-1821-1822-1823-1824-1825-1826-1827-1828-1829-1830-1831-1832-1833-1834-1835-1836-1837-1838-1839-1840-1841-1842-1843-1844-1845-1846-1847-1848-1849-1850-1851-1852-1853-1854-1855-1856-1857-1858-1859-1860-1861-1862-1863-1864-1865-1866-1867-1868-1869-1870-1871-1872-1873-1874-1875-1876-1877-1878-1879-1880-1881-1882-1883-1884-1885-1886-1887-1888-1889-1890-1891-1892-1893-1894-1895-1896-1897-1898-1899-1900-1901-1902-1903-1904-1905-1906-1907-1908-1909-1910-1911-1912-1913-1914-1915-1916-1917-1918-1919-1920-1921-1922-1923-1924-1925-1926-1927-1928-1929-1930-1931-1932-1933-1934-1935-1936-1937-1938-1939-1940-1941-1942-1943-1944-1945-1946-1947-1948-1949-1950-1951-1952-1953-1954-1955-1956-1957-1958-1959-1960-1961-1962-1963-1964-1965-1966-1967-1968-1969-1970-1971-1972-1973-1974-1975-1976-1977-1978-1979-1980-1981-1982-1983-1984-1985-1986-1987-1988-1989-1990-1991-1992-1993-1994-1995-1996-1997-1998-1999-2000-2001-2002-2003-2004-2005-2006-2007-2008-2009-2010-2011-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025-2026-2027-2028-2029-2030-2031-2032-2033-2034-2035-2036-2037-2038-2039-2040-2041-2042-2043-2044-2045-2046-2047-2048-2049-2050-2051-2052-2053-2054-2055-2056-2057-2058-2059-2060-2061-2062-2063-2064-2065-2066-2067-2068-2069-2070-2071-2072-2073-2074-2075-2076-2077-2078-2079-2080-2081-2082-2083-2084-2085-2086-2087-2088-2089-2090-2091-2092-2093-2094-2095-2096-2097-2098-2099-2100-2101-2102-2103-2104-2105-2106-2107-2108-2109-2110-2111-2112-2113-2114-2115-2116-2117-2118-2119-2120-2121-2122-2123-2124-2125-2126-2127-2128-2129-2130-2131-2132-2133-2134-2135-2136-2137-2138-2139-2140-2141-2142-2143-2144-2145-2146-2147-2148-2149-2150-2151-2152-2153-2154-2155-2156-2157-2158-2159-2160-2161-2162-2163-2164-2165-2166-2167-2168-2169-2170-2171-2172-2173-2174-2175-2176-2177-2178-2179-2180-2181-2182-2183-2184-2185-2186-2187-2188-2189-2190-2191-2192-2193-2194-2195-2196-2197-2198-2199-2200-2201-2202-2203-2204-2205-2206-2207-2208-2209-2210-2211-2212-2213-2214-2215-2216-2217-2218-2219-2220-2221-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Fashion

by Prudence Glynn



Above: Estée Lauder's blue and white china, copied in pattern from an antique design. Soup taster £8, perfume candle £12 and bath salts in a jar £20. Harrods only.

Trevor Sutton



Wisp of a James Reger nightdress, £64 in black, rose, beige, ebony or white from 2 Beauchamp Place and 33 Brook St. 629-6504.



Stuart Devlin's silver soup ladle, £275.73, two cigarette cases from Anne Bloom, of a girl getting into a bath, £450, and a nude with dove, £385. Tortoiseshell and gold bracelet, £900, from Boucheron, 180 New Bond St, with a tortoiseshell and gold watch, £600



A selection from The Clerkenwell workshops. Goblet by Robert Glover, silversmith, £116, tricycle horse by Alex Fried, model maker, £69, zodiac egg, £300, by Richard Geere, and two brooches by Stella Dalg, one of a palm tree, £57.50 and the other of snowdrops in a vase, £103.50.

One of the many charms of the best is that it has a future. If passed on as a gift, then the recipient, and if sold, the purchaser, and the purchaser after him—must be perpetually enchanted by something which represents the scene of a particular place. I am a self-confessed aristophile, perfectly content to slum along without if I cannot have what I consider to be the best.

Note the qualification: what I consider to be the best, for I recognize that there may be those who view my choice of presents with a mixture of aesthetic nausea and financial scandal. But then what is investment in the best, or better still commissioning of the best, if it is not personal, even self-indulgent? One man's individual confidence is, after all, another man's advantage.

I like the best in "craft work". I am not interested in the deliberate thumbprint on the pottery jug, or the rough-hewn inaccuracies of a textile piece. I believe that the future of the artist-craftsman lies in carrying forward the frontiers of his art—one of the reasons I so much admire the skater John Curry.

So I should like to own (another) textile work by the artist Candace Byllych. I should like in fact to have "The poem of the Pillow" a Japanese triptych on sale now at the admirable Prescotter Gallery, Cropredy, Banbury, Oxon (029 575 660) to which the ladies and gentlemen are entirely contrived, three-dimensionally, of the most exquisitely wrought tapestry, finished with Belle Epoch hairdoes of real horsehair. Such is the exemplary level of their craftsmanship that they might have been made on an industrial loom, or painted indeed, such is their precision of feature. In fact they are entirely hand made, and totally lovely. Then what of the silver ladle by Stuart Devlin, the Australian silversmith who has now moved from table settings to the actual table—said ladle has taken up "the best of the original" and increased search for modern technique from the one to the other? The ladle is hammered entirely by hand, from a piece of silver eight inches long. It has a rounded, thick bowl, a ridged handle and

looks as though it might have been cast, so perfect is the craftsmanship of the spoonmaker who produced it. Once again, it is the best, and carries an ancient technique forward, away from that fearful con-dolly/yogger wheel/thumb print syndrome that too much of the craft revival people have to cater to in order not to frighten the new generation of patrons.

On the same carrying-forward tack, let me commend Clerkenwell Promotions, 21 Clerkenwell Close, London, EC1 (01-253 6101) which is a central marketing agency set up by the tenants on a non-profit making basis. The Close houses a luthier, glider, cabinet-maker, upholsterer and a whole host of other makers. Personally, I want some stained glass (representational or modern) for Oxfordshire but also for a perfect present, why not have a book bound? My books are among my dearest friends, and get the same rough and vital treatment as other groups. I read the same things over and over, and I would dearly like my D. M. Low paperback of the Decline and Fall, or my Portable Dorothy Parker in a splendid book worthy of their style. (Of course, I'd keep a paperback for travelling) but it just seems to me the most lucid option.

For the man who has everything, including, if one is to believe the government, a nasty disease coming up, I can present the best in chic risk-taking. Anna Bloom, 4 Grosvenor St, W1 (01-493 0526) has got together a collection of wicked cigarette cases, any of which when presented ought to ensure that your future is assured. Likewise that sensational Reger nightie. Clad in sheer lace. If you fall in your objectives in life wearing this, I think you ought to think about another direction in life.

I get very nervous when people give me cosmetics, or scent, because I have strong views on colour, and on how I smell. I am therefore grateful to Estée Lauder for lifting the whole thing out of the realms of "does she wear pink chocolate, or chocolate pink?" and producing a ravishing range of so-called cosmetic presents which instead of land-

ing one in the agony of exchange, the nervous of he doesn't understand me, are just simply beautiful packages, taken from the highest source, filled with goodies for now, but with an afterlife. Little things mean a lot. The best flowers mean white, highly scented from Fushook and Gould in Sloane Street. I covet the cur jobs, but, luxuriously mean, even prefer the same in plantable outdoor settings. True, there are moments when those splendid dishes resemble a pet's grave, but then, being a strong minded girl, I put the moss round my climbing pot plants, dip the dish (usually very pretty) in the Phillips DW and serve up the familiar roast on same, and put all the bits into the garden, which, you must admit just about answers all my demands for a now and future present.

Chocs I hardly touch, but my faint knowledge of the things persuades me that they must be from Richoux and should be covered in dark chocolate, be two eights of an inch thick, and filled with white peppermint.

For those who have disliked every suggestion so far, I can add that Brownie in South Molton Street are now stocking the most lovely and exotic clothes from Rome by Bora Kozak, to visit whom devoted readers will remember that I climbed through a hole in a roof. Uncommitted, you might like to give a voucher for chic—the smartest in the form of a silver key to Wardrobe, 42 Chiltern St. (01-486 5064) and 25 Old Bond St, from £10 to £500.

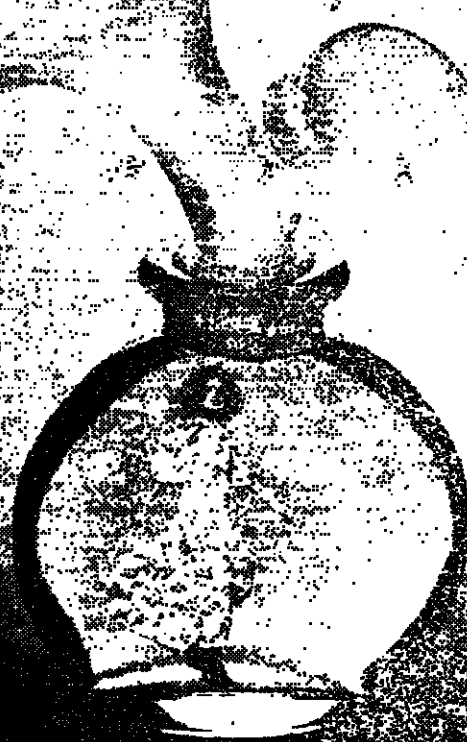
My last choice is very personal. I have mentioned before Pennington, 41 Wellington Street, Covent Garden. Tiny, ultimately pechercha, just available in Bergdorf in New York, is not the sexiest scent of all Hammam Bouquet, supposedly for a man, but then, what more exotic than to wear it oneself and thus imply the recent flight from the arms of the enchanter. Do not be mean. If you intend to pinch it yourself, go to the Estée at £10 the oz. Pennington prefer to write the name of the possessor on the label, but you can always play safe with such phrases as "To my darling" which will make your husband very happy.

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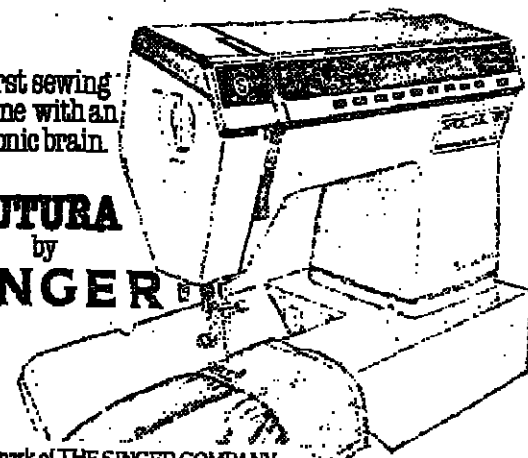
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GREECE

a Special Report

Karamanlis finds resistance to moves towards the West

by Mario Modiano

There has been a marked swing to the left in Greece and the trend is plainly reflected in the composition of the new Parliament, which opened in Athens this week. Last month's elections gave the Conservative Party a good lead but brought the anti-Western radicals, for the first time, near to the threshold of power.

Mr Constantine Karamanlis remains leader of the majority—a somewhat emaciated majority, it is true. But 172 out of 300 deputies is enough to prop a government solidly for the next four years.

The opposition, however, will no longer be led by the accommodating and strongly pro-European Mr George Pavlos. His moderate Democratic Centre Union suffered a heavy defeat. It lost half of its votes and was left with a mere 15 deputies. Mr Pavlos himself has relinquished leadership of the party.

The new opposition chief is Mr Andreas Papandreu, whose fundamentalist Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek) unexpectedly doubled its share of the vote and won 93 seats. Pasek stands for a socialist economy at home and non-alignment in foreign affairs. It wants Greece out of Nato and the EEC and the American bases out of Greece.

In these pursuits Pasek has the full support of the pro-Soviet Communist Party of Greece which has 11 deputies in the new house. A significant novelty is the emergence of a right-wing opposition to the Government in the form of the national rally which returned five deputies.

The most important new factor, however, is that more than a third of Parliament will be actively opposing all government policies, domestic and foreign.

To assess how the new political situation may influence the country's future

course, it is necessary to explore the causes of the shifts. And here opinions differ.

There are those who treat them as a temporary phenomenon, voters protesting over the government's errors and omissions and the inadequacy of the Centre Union opposition—definitely not socialist converts.

There are also those who see them as a direct, if belated, consequence of seven years of crude military dictatorship from 1967 to 1974, which had forced the radicalization of the Greek masses.

That the swing did not come immediately after the junta's collapse in 1974, they attribute to fears, at the time, that the tanks might roll back again.

The outcome of the last elections was the greatest tribute the Greeks could pay Karamanlis for restoring democracy, one seasoned Western diplomat said in Athens. "They now feel secure enough to afford an opening to the left."

The restoration of democracy, painlessly and without upheaval was indeed the most remarkable achievement of the Karamanlis administration in the past three years. It is even more conspicuous when compared with the troubles of Spain and Portugal.

On the institutional front, the Karamanlis administration solved the long-standing question of the monarchy by means of a referendum that gave a two-to-one vote in favour of a republic. This was combined with a new constitution which, for all the criticism levelled against it, seems to have worked well.

The Greeks realize today that they have never had a more genuine democracy in modern times. Even the Communist Party, ostracized for 30 years because of its launching a civil war, has been fully legalized. The leaders of the fallen junta were

jailed for life, and their sadistic henchmen received long prison sentences.

A catastrophic war with Turkey was averted and the policy of confrontation replaced by negotiation. The Greek Armed Forces were purged of anti-democratic elements and reorganized. The troops were equipped with advanced weapons in an effort to offset superior numbers by superior quality and restore the balance of power in the Aegean.

Defence budgets totalled £2,000m in the past three years—6.5 per cent of gross national income—yet the Greek economy did not fare too badly. The per capita income this year reached the level of £2,500.

The public, aware of the external crisis, responded with a heightened sense of responsibility. There were few serious strikes and little social unrest. Unemployment was minimal despite the check to emigration as work opportunities abroad became scarce.

The balance of payments was kept under control and the budget remained balanced. Special taxes were levied on property and corporate profits as well as on luxury imports, to offset the high cost of defence.

Drastic reforms were legislated for education. The most spectacular was the sanctioning of the democratic or spoken language in schools, universities, even in the public administration where it superseded the pedantic and largely artificial officialness in use.

Technical education was given a major impetus in order to create a credible and useful alternative to university education where there are seven applicants for every vacancy.

Credits to education in the last three years rose to 68,000m drachmas (£1,062m) for 30 years because of almost equal to what had been spent in the preceding decade.

However, all was not rosy

for the Greeks during these three years. There were grave errors, shortcomings and omissions. Analysts believe they can trace the pattern of Mr Karamanlis's electoral losses.

Take the farmers, for instance. Most Greek farmers are traditionally conservative. They seem to be allergic even to the word "socialism". Yet, the detailed election results show that they voted this time massively for Pasek.

One reason is that Pasek was the only party that sought out the farmer in his own village to convince him to sign up as a member. The other parties take him for granted and rely mainly on the patronage system to secure his vote.

This time there was more. As one government analyst put it: "The farmers have had three bad crops, which is very unusual. The international prices of their produce dropped. The Government did what it could. They did not think it was enough."

This analyst believes that the swing towards Pasek was due to protest, and was therefore a temporary aberration. "Pasek's promises were attractive. But the farmers did not suddenly turn socialist," he said.

The ruling party lost 23 per cent of its support and just over a half of it went to the extreme right. Psychologists who tried to identify these defectors agree that a large number of disgruntled businessmen were exasperated by the inefficiency of the administration and the Government's failure to inspire investment confidence.

The Greek Civil Service remained as inefficient and as needlessly bureaucratic as it ever was. This became a major deterrent to economic development as prospective investors refused to become enmeshed in the tangles of the state machine.

continued on page 15

Although the Socialist Opposition, led by Mr Andreas Papandreu and firmly opposed to joining the EEC, made substantial gains at last month's elections, the Conservative Government's commitment to adhesion remains unshaken. Mr Karamanlis has announced that negotiations, now at a crucial stage, will in future be conducted jointly by Mr Papaligouras, the newly appointed Foreign Minister, and Mr Kondoyiorgis, Minister without Portfolio. Constantine Collmer reports.

Negotiations opened officially in June 1976 and began in earnest last July. Every month the permanent representatives of Greece and the Community meet in Brussels to examine progress on economic and technical levels, while progress on political matters is examined once every three months. In between, negotiations are conducted between economic and technical experts on specific items.

Between December 1976 and July 1977 the Greek Government submitted its position on customs union, the harmonization of agricultural policy, the free movement of people and capital and the common market in steel and coal. Its most recent submission concerned the Greek participation quota in Community institutions.

Only the agricultural and institutional issues have still to be settled. The second phase of the negotiations began last October, in an effort towards rapprochement on specific issues. And the recent ministerial negotiations between M. Simonet, President of the Council, and Mr Papaligouras, former Coordinator Minister of Greece and now Foreign Minister, gave the go ahead to the integration of negotiations in six sectors. The agriculture problem and the problem of the transitional period were left out because of delays in the Commission's answer.

The third phase will probably start next March, when Greece and the EEC will be called upon to agree on the unsettled parts of the adhesion agreement. It is hoped that the agreement will be signed by the end of 1978. If all goes well, one more year will be needed for the ratification of the agreement, so one could reasonably expect that

Greece will be a full member by 1980.

The present phase is the most difficult. It gives the impression of stagnation because a scanning in depth of the issues is taking place.

"We are at the stage of knowing the positions held by both sides," one negotiation official states. "What is not yet clear is the length of the transitional period."

The Europeans have accepted five years as the necessary transitional phase for the adjustment of the Greek economy, but they have not yet given an official answer.

The criterion for the period is a practical one, depending on the several stages during which the Greek economy can gradually be liberated. This fact has often been misunderstood during the negotiations, as in the case of secondary law, where the specialist teams have no right to negotiate Greek reservations. These reservations are reasonable and justified (the right of free establishment is crucial and can be decided only on a political level) but they have helped to produce a misleading impression of stalemate.

On the other hand, a logical discrepancy exists between the positions held by Athens and by Brussels. The Greek Opposition maintains that the Government, in its desire to speed negotiations, has put up "Greece for sale". On the contrary, it is said in Brussels that negotiations are difficult because of Greek inflexibility.

The question of Mediterranean enlargement also has a real effect on the negotiations, however indirect. "What consequences will concession A or B to Greece have on negotiations with Spain and Portugal?" This question, even though the Greeks consider it irrelevant

to their case, prevails in the minds of the Europeans. The enlargement problem may not directly concern Greece's adhesion, especially if one bears in mind that Greek produce, unlike Spanish, is only a small fraction of European produce. But the fear of broadening is sufficient to create an impression that negotiations are being deliberately protracted.

The EEC member states do not always agree among themselves on the enlargement issues, and thus negotiations often appear to be hampered by contradictory statements. Real progress, however, is not affected.

The conclusion of the second phase, due by the end of next March, will require clarification of the communal positions, which will inevitably be influenced by the outcome of the French elections.

Not only are the French communists against the Community's enlargement; so are Greek communists, and they are not alone. Even Mr Andreas Papandreu, president of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek), says no to the EEC, and other pressure groups in Greece have the same attitude.

Apart from the negotiating problems, there are practical difficulties to be surmounted. Much more information needs to be available if negotiations can progress on specific issues. In order to cope with EEC demands, Greek bureaucracy must undergo a huge adjustment in the next seven years.

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Unforeseen difficulties could arise at any time. In contrast to the negotiations with the three most recent EEC member states, Britain, the Republic of Ireland and Denmark, the admission of Greece is but one of many Community issues, although any impression that negotiations are being delayed on purpose is far from the truth. After all, it took Britain 10 years to become a full member.

If it was only the Greeks who were anxious about their admission it would be perfectly understandable: they have a Mediterranean temperament, and they are eager to see both their European status and Europe's guaran-

tees confirmed. The paradox is that their impatience has been transmitted to the cool Europeans. Not that all of them want Greece in the EEC at the earliest possible moment—on the contrary. Even so, most of them complain in Brussels that the negotiations have lost their initial impetus.

Nevertheless, the Greek idea is taken very seriously at a high political level. Never have the negotiations been as tough as they are now, but Europe has already begun to accept that Greece will soon be its tenth member.

The author is economics correspondent, Ta Nea.

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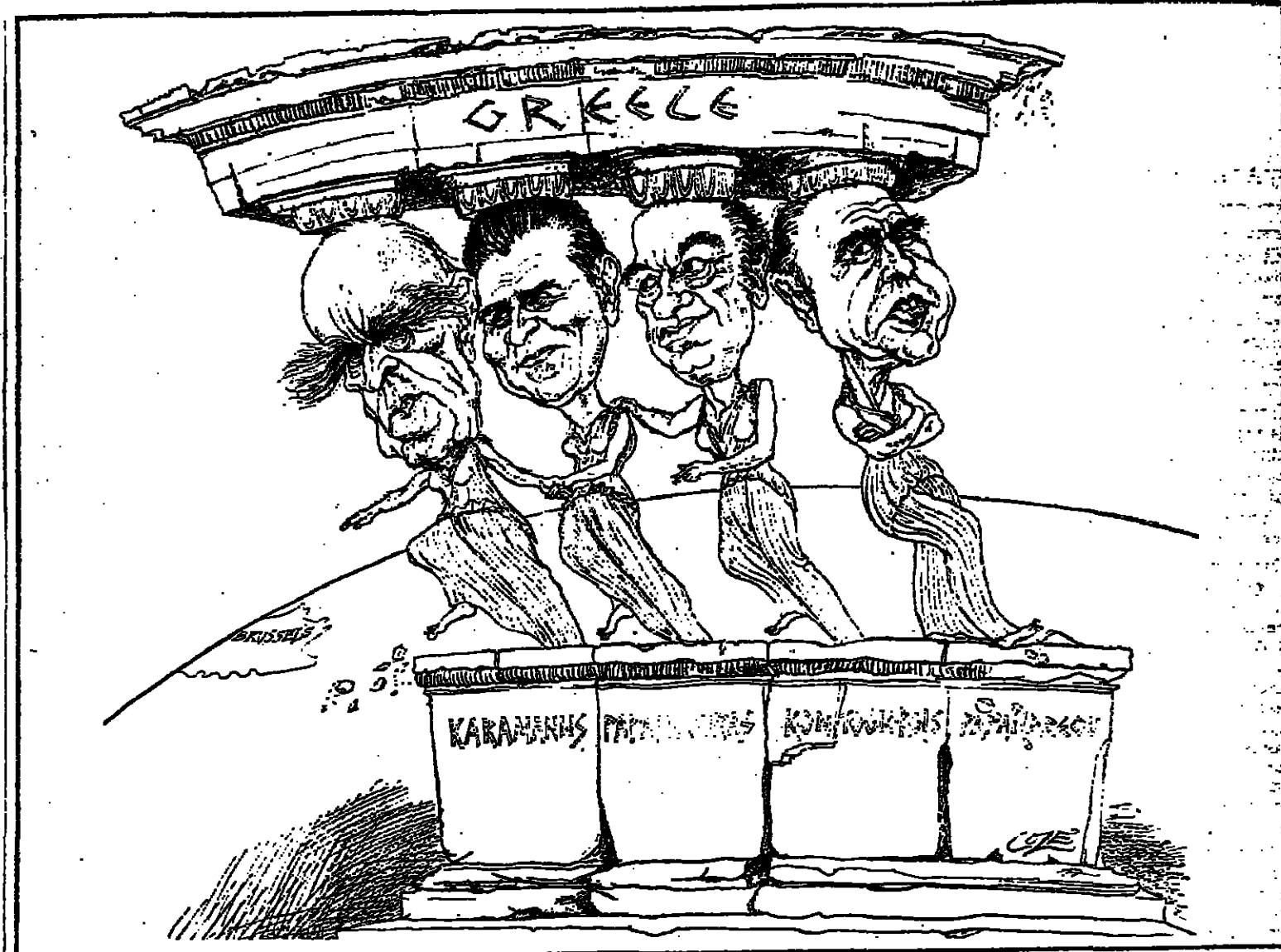
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EEC farm fears unfounded

by Adam Pepelasis

Greek accession to the EEC will strengthen rather than weaken the negotiating position of France and Italy in seeking a revision of the Common Agricultural Policy on Mediterranean crops.

It is because these countries, like Greece, are seeking to develop their agricultural economy mainly by improving crop structure, and not merely by pursuing a protectionist policy for their products.

Moreover, the application of Spain and Portugal cannot be an obstacle to Greece's accession. After all, Greece became an associate member of the Community in 1961, under a treaty which is so broad and important that it makes Greece's case widely distinct from that of every other country that subsequently became associated with the EEC.

Under that treaty, Greece and the Community have assumed important obligations. Both sides are committed to equal treatment of their products in each other's

markets, to harmonising agricultural policies, and to common action in social and economic matters.

Nor should it be forgotten that Greece's accession is expressly envisaged in the preamble to the association agreement. The treaty was put into effect immediately and, despite being frozen during the dictatorship—which did not, however, prevent tariff cuts on Greek imports from the EEC—it still functions normally and retains its vigour.

Consequently, hostility on the part of a member state is groundless since it not only denies the very purpose and validity of the association agreement, but implies non-adherence to long-term EEC policy and puts to the test the ability of the Community to operate as a unified whole in important matters. Also, the very existence and operation of the agreement leaves no room for doubt that Greece has priority over every other country regarding accession to the Community.

Apart from the formal aspect of the matter, however, there is also a question of substance. Because of the

small volume of Greek agricultural output in comparison with the Community's, Greek farm products will only marginally affect the markets and prices of EEC products.

For instance, Greece's entry will not pose difficulties over tobacco, corn, mustard and several kinds of fruit, in which the Community is not entirely self-sufficient. Peaches are regarded as a serious problem but recent research in Greece has proved that with the given elasticity of demand, the surplus will be absorbed by the home market over the next 10 years.

Similarly, Greek wine output, which is just about equal to 3 per cent of the Community's, is certainly not going to affect the EEC. Most olive oil is consumed locally and the surplus for export could not eliminate the Community's 21 per cent deficit. In fact, the Community imports about 150,000 tons of olive oil a year, while Greece exports about 30,000 tons.

These figures show that the fears and hostility of France in particular, are unfounded. From the point of view of the Community, which centres on competition between North European and Mediterranean

farm products, the latter—mainly tobacco, cotton, fruit, vegetables, olive oil, wine and mustard—are less well protected by the Common Agricultural Policy than North European products.

As a consequence Italy has found that while other members are increasing their imports of fruit and vegetables from third countries, they are at the same time taking strict measures to maintain Community preference for dairy products and meat.

Burden laid on the prices policy

Moreover, in a memo submitted to the Council of Ministers on July 26, France stated that the growth rate of agricultural income in the Mediterranean area during the last two years had been less than half the rate in other agricultural regions. The difficulty of Mediterranean agriculture is basically a question of structural underdevelopment. Because the Community's agricultural policy is such that only about 5 per cent of the European Guidance Fund's resources are used to finance the EEC's structural

reform policy, the entire financial burden is laid on the prices and market policy.

In terms of specific common proposals and of a specific policy of claims on the part of the Mediterranean countries, strengthening their negotiating position would bring about a change of CAP in their favour. The parallel effort to adopt a protectionist policy on Mediterranean products, of the same range and effectiveness as the prices and market policy for the strategic products of Northern Europe, is fully associated with the community's structural policy.

Once the policy on Mediterranean crops has been reformed to promote the production of goods that are scarce in the Community, or to change the product range so that production peaks do not coincide—and once these products are grown and handled in a modern, rational way, thus reducing their cost—then it will be right and natural for them to enjoy the protection afforded to the Community's other farm products. Notwithstanding the need to maintain close ties with the Mediterranean countries, the policy on agricultural imports gives rise to problems hindering the accession of Greece and other countries. It needs to be reformed in such a way as to achieve a golden mean between the interests of the farmers of the Community and of the subject of controversy. It is much larger in terms of percentage than in Northern Europe, which is natural, considering the different level of development in the two areas. Recent research has shown that the Greek rural population is 20 to 24 per cent of the total population—about the same ratio as in southern Italy and, at any rate, not at all inconsistent with Greece's overall level of development.

If Greece hopes to succeed in the Community, it is because of the realization that the country must at last come to grips with its agricultural problems, whether it succeeds or not. Greece is determined to follow a national agricultural policy which, after accession, will be organically connected with the CAP and the regional and social policies of the Community.

For Greeks, accession will not be a *deus ex machina* which would somehow solve their agricultural problems automatically, without their lifting a finger. They see it rather as an incentive which, if used to advantage, will contribute effectively to the development of Greece's agricultural economy.

Professor Pepelasis is Governor of the Agricultural Bank of Greece.

Year of three decisions

by Mario Modiano

Three important foreign policy issues confronting Greece today—Cyprus, the Aegean dispute, and EEC membership—are expected to enter a decisive phase within 1978.

Action on Cyprus seems imminent. Western pressures to elicit from Turkey the concessions needed for a solution, have reached a high pitch.

Greek-Turkish talks on the disputed sea-bed and air space of the Aegean, are likely to be resumed shortly. Their eventual failure would increase the risks of armed conflict.

Greek entry negotiations with the EEC are dragging, but the moment of truth is near. The Nine will have to decide soon, probably after the French elections in March, whether to admit Greece or turn their backs on enlargement.

The outcome of efforts to solve Cyprus and the Aegean disputes will also largely determine Greece's future relations with the West—both in NATO and, bilaterally, with the United States.

In last month's general elections, the Government of Mr Konstantinos Karamanlis won a renewed mandate to tackle these problems and a comfortable parliamentary majority to do it with 172 seats out of 300.

However, for the first time in Greek history, the anti-Western radicals gained second place and a strong voice in the Greek Parliament. It is a voice that Mr Karamanlis cannot afford to ignore: it represents well over a third of the House.

Pasok, the main opposition party, stands for a complete rupture with NATO, a loose trade link with the EEC, and the ousting of all American military bases from Greece.

This Marxist-socialist party, led by Mr Andreas Papandreu, has been behind a sustained campaign designed to persuade the Greeks that the Americans and NATO were responsible for the seven years of dictatorship in Greece, the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, and even for Turkey's current claims in the Aegean.

With this election platform, Pasok managed to double its votes and quadruple the number of its deputies to 93. The party is expected to put up a common opposition front with the 11 deputies of the pro-Soviet Greek Communist Party and other radical groups.

The Opposition's main argument is that Mr Karamanlis's favourite slogan "we belong to the West" had reduced Greece to the status of a satellite and deprived it of much bargaining power. "The West was never too sure about Tur-

key's loyalty," they argue. The sharp differences between Government and Opposition encompass all the major foreign issues.

On Cyprus, while the Government encourages Western mediation initiatives as the only practical way to wrest concessions from Turkey for a negotiated settlement, the Opposition insists that the issue should be treated as an international problem within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United Nations.

On the Aegean, the Government favours bilateral talks and international arbitration to demarcate Greece's continental shelf boundaries with Turkey in the Aegean. The Opposition rejects all Turkey's claims in the Aegean and insists on a dynamic reaction in case Greek sovereignty is challenged.

On the EEC, the Government's objective is early entry, mainly for political reasons. The Opposition rejects membership as a sell-out to the multinational monopolies, and seeks to force the Nine to eliminate the imbalances in their favour in their trade with Greece.

The emergence of a strong anti-Western Opposition is less disturbing for its impact on parliamentary business than as a revelation of prevailing popular trends. An increasing number of Greeks detest the West as a perfidious and unscrupulous ally. The word "ally" is often

used in inverted commas.

Even the newly-elected leader of the hitherto moderate and pro-Western Democratic Centre Union, Mr Ioannis Zoridis said recently: "If NATO really wanted, the problems of Cyprus and the Aegean would be eliminated in 24 hours."

Although the Government has the majority in Parliament, its negotiating latitude on the national issues is clearly limited by the threat that by going against popular trends, it is paving the road for a Pasok victory in the next elections.

This delicate balance the Government will doubtless turn to some advantage while negotiating on those issues. Until now it was generally assumed that Mr Karamanlis could impose his will on the Greeks. It was only Turkey, which involves domestic political difficulties to avoid the bitter pill of concessions. Now Mr Karamanlis will be able to invoke comparable difficulties.

The Karamanlis Government expects the stiffest opposition to come when Parliament is asked to ratify the new bases agreement with the United States, which was initiated last July. All Opposition parties to the left of Mr Karamanlis want the American bases altogether abolished.

The Government argues that the new agreement places the four main American bases in Greece entirely under effective Greek control. They will also be used by the Greek Armed Forces. The opposition rejects this as a fair-trade claim, that the bases are here to spy on Greece and will make this country a prime target in case of war. Most demonstrations in Greece, whatever their object, invariably include the chant: "out with the death bases".

Bases agreement linked to Cyprus peace

Yet, the bases agreement is bound to be a vital component of any American-induced Cyprus settlement because this would be directly related to the lifting of the American arms embargo on Turkey.

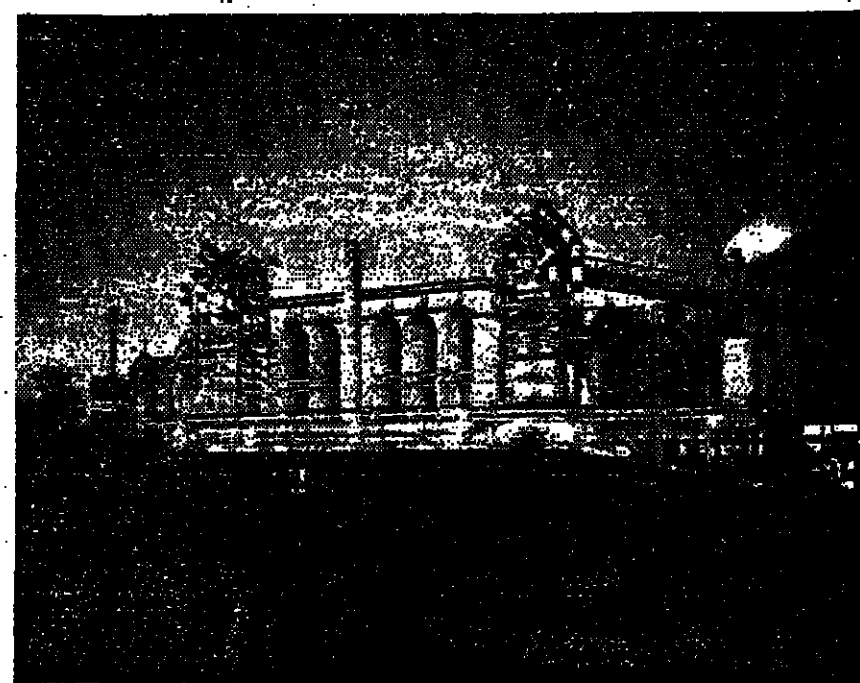
Similar resistance is expected if the Government works out with NATO a special status for Greece: the Greek Armed Forces will remain under national command, but in case of East-West conflict, they will be promptly integrated in the allied command.

Greece has been alienated to some extent from military NATO since the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974. Mr Karamanlis is pledged not to rejoin until the problems with Turkey are resolved. The Opposition wants a complete break with NATO and non-alignment.

Popular feeling on these important issues seems to transcend party affiliations. The Greeks are divided but not along the lines defined by the voting strength of political parties. For instance, many supporters of Mr Karamanlis would be happy to see the American bases go, while many Pasok voters are known to favour Greek membership in the EEC.

The Greek Constitution of 1975 includes a provision which empowers the President to bring important issues directly to the people for a vote by referendum.

In view of the country's new political situation, this procedure may have to be used often in order to avert dangerous deadlocks between the Government and the Opposition over vital national issues.



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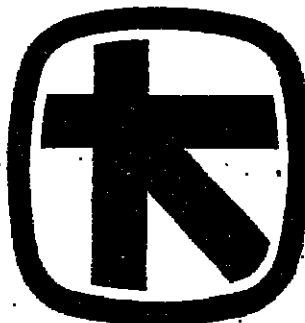
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A New Concept in Banking

Second look after rapid growth of tourism

by Sheila Walsh

The tourist industry has firmly established itself in Greece as a major national resource. This year's tourist receipts are expected to reach a record \$1,000m.

The number of visitors is expected to reach four and a half to five million by the end of the year, which will also be a record. In the first nine months 3,967,879 tourists visited Greece, 337,782 of them Britons. Tourism receipts increased by 22.8 per cent in the same period, while the number of visitors rose by about 10 per cent.

The flow of tourists has more than doubled in the past three years, bringing with it enough foreign currency to offset an appreciable part of the chronic deficit in Greece's balance of payments. All this has developed in a little over a decade from a humble industry, based on family-run tavernas and small hotels. With this rapid growth have come some difficulties.

There is a heightened awareness that the continuing success of the Greek tourist industry does not lie simply in taking up million upon million in the "tourist arrivals" statistics.

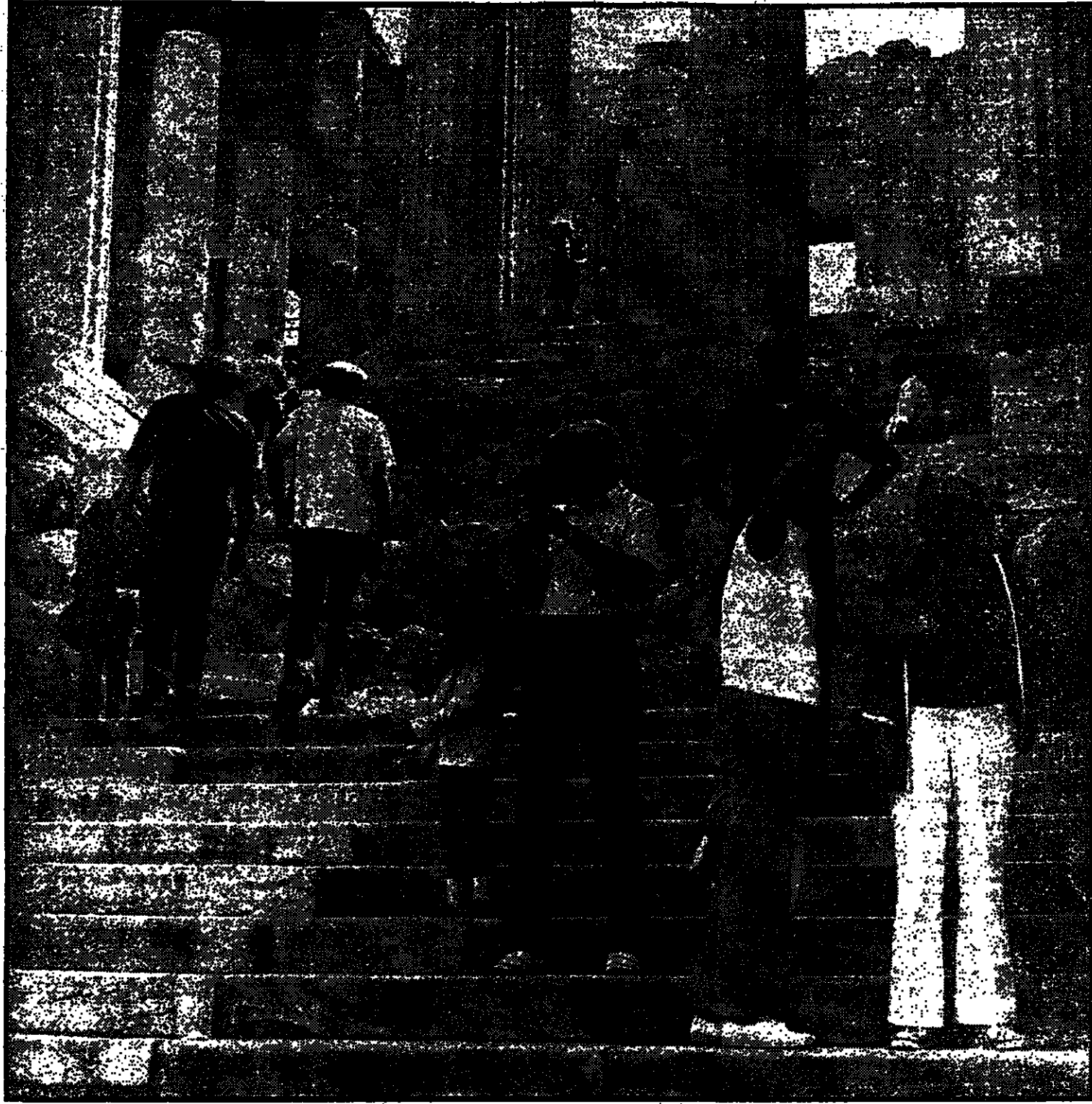
The state tourist organization and the tourism operators are taking a closer, more analytical look, not only at the "growth" of tourism, but at the forms that growth is taking. The tourist is obviously more interested in Greece's beaches, bouzouki, and the holiday atmosphere than in the Greek balance of payments. But those concerned with the national accounts are also concerned with the success of the tourist's holiday.

The Greek National Tourist Organization took sample polls this year at frontier points, asking departing visitors for their comments. Seventy per cent said they were satisfied with their holidays. Others had complaints which were both predictable and remediable. They included: poor service, the plumbing facilities in some public places, museum hours, unkempt beaches.

The prospect of keeping more than five million tourists happy in the coming year, and an estimated 6,500,000 by 1982, is a challenging one but the Greeks seem confident that they can cope. The country has 9,327 miles of coast, which it would be difficult to crowd, and a steadily expanding hotel capacity which now stands at 229,186 beds.

The question is how to get the right number of tourists and the right number of beds together in the right place at the right time. Greece is seeking the answer in the encouragement of tourism development in more areas, and in a continuing campaign to lure travellers to Greece throughout the year. For the tourist this means a wider choice of holiday or, to the delight of the trade, a series of holidays.

The country's enviable



Tourists outside the Propylaea, the gateway to the Parthenon, Athens.

Corfu, has become the largest private hotel owner in the country.

At Halkidiki in north-east Greece, Mr. John Cernus, the shipowner, has built a self-sufficient holiday resort area that even has its own vineyards that produce excellent wines.

At the same time, in villages on the south coast of Crete and all over the country, families who rented rooms to tourists last summer are investing in extensions on their houses, or making plans for small hotels.

The National Tourist Organization, operating in an area where private capital might not venture, has announced that 500 more beds will be available for 1978 in renovated village houses in picturesque com-

munities that are out of the ordinary stream of tourist traffic.

At the same time tourists are making their own choices, dictated by their tastes and their budgets. One tourist organization's samplings this year indicated that a quarter of the visitors who had been polled had not gone to hotels, preferring to camp or rent rooms in private houses. Of the hotel guests, 45 per cent chose medium-price accommodation, 24 per cent first-class, and 7 per cent luxury class.

This was one of the factors the Greek Federation of Hoteliers noted in a report which said that while 1977 was a record year for the number of visitors it was by no means a boom year for Greek hotels. Hotel occupancy, especially in established tourist centres such as Corfu and Rhodes, had fallen by more than 20 per cent.

Holidays taken for shorter period

Mr. Panayotis Karadontis, president of the federation, attributed this in part to the development of new holiday centres and to tourists seeking shorter holidays or less expensive accommodation. But the fall in hotel occupancy was also a result of the increased number of beds to be filled.

Since 1974 a rise of 14 per cent had taken place in the number of hotels and a 31 per cent increase in the number of beds. He called attention, however, to the sensitivity to any change in the pattern of the industry of areas where tourism has become the chief support of the economy.

Mr. Karadontis estimated that 90 per cent of the economy of the island of Rhodes depends directly or indirectly on tourism, while in Corfu 60 per cent of the economy is geared to the holidaymaker.

The impression that while more tourists are coming to Greece each year they are not spending more money is a cause for concern. An Athens financial journal recently urged a greater emphasis on long-term planning. It said that in the period 1973-76 there had been a rise of 60 per cent in total tourist revenue but only an 18 per cent increase in per capita spending.

Figures from the National Tourist Organization indicated that there was a 14 per cent increase in per capita tourist expenditure during 1977. And they also indicated that the outlook is good for 1978.

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The Greek banking system has been developing fast in the last few decades to keep pace with the rapid growth of demand for banking services reflecting, in turn, the economy's progressing monetisation and development. A basic characteristic of this period has been that an ever increasing part of the population is having recourse to the banking system for depositing their money and settling their transactions. Since the capital market is still not sufficiently developed, most of the savings used for investment financing are channelled through the banks, largely through the commercial banks, which are still one of the principal sources of capital for fixed asset formation even though there are now several specialised investment banks in operation.

The Commercial Bank of Greece is an efficiently organised institution and the second-largest bank in the country by any criterion. Internationally, it occupies the 228th place among the world's 500 biggest banks in terms of deposits, and the 221st place among the 300 biggest banks in terms of total assets.

The origin of the Commercial Bank of Greece can be traced back to the year 1886. Ever since then it has been steadily developing. A few years ago, its modernisation programme took a great step forward with the introduction and subsequent extension of the teleprocessing system: in this respect the Commercial Bank now occupies a pre-eminent position amongst the largest European banks. The Bank's country-wide network of branches and representative offices now consists of 197 branches, 3 permanent agencies, 11 foreign exchange bureaux and 46 rural bus service-lines (mobile banks). The Commercial Bank was the first to introduce in Greece mobile banks which now serve 600 small towns and villages throughout the country.

The Commercial Bank of Greece has played a leading part in the development of the Greek economy, especially in the last twenty years, winning for itself a substantial share of the country's total banking business and supplying a considerable proportion of the funds channelled into productive investment. At the same time it has been constantly strengthening its relations and enlarging the scope of its relationship and co-operation with foreign banks and financial institutions.

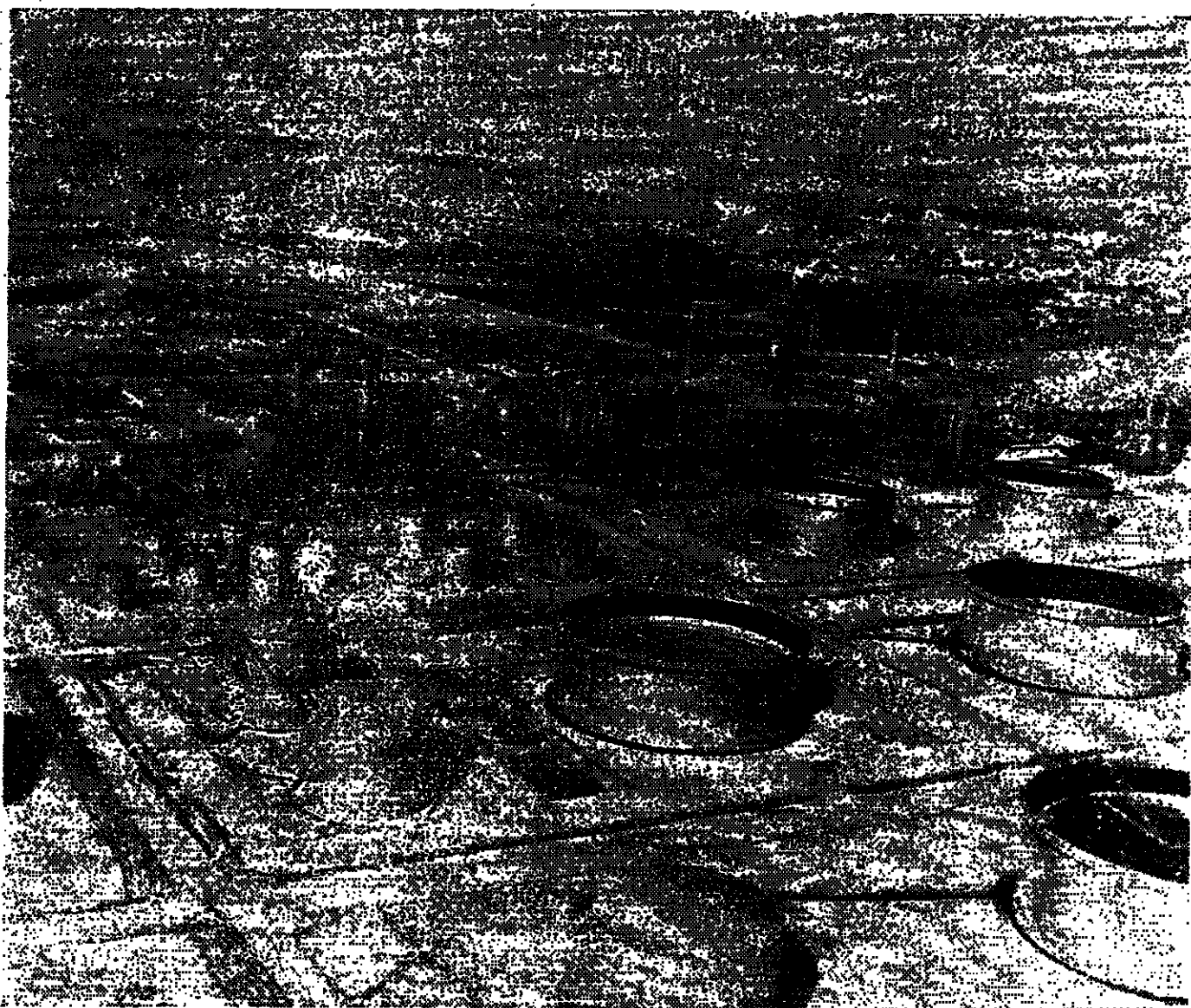
As pointed out by the Bank's Chairman and General Manager, Mr. Evangelos Eliades, in his Report to the last Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders (held in June 1977), the financial position of the Bank has been greatly strengthened recently, following the increase in its share capital effected, by virtue of Law 431/1976, through payments in cash. As a result of this increase, its total capital and reserves rose to the equivalent of approximately \$205 million at the end of 1976. At the same time, there followed a substantial increase in the Bank's liquidity and a considerable improvement in the ratios of the Bank's own funds on the one hand, to deposits or total or selected assets on the other.

The figures below indicate the changes in the Bank's position and volume of transactions, in the period from the end of 1976 to September 30, 1977:

(in millions)	31.12.1976	31.12.1976	30.9.1977
Capital and Reserves	Drs. 1,903 (\$53.4)	Drs. 7,578 (\$204.6)	Drs. 7,578 (\$204.6)
Deposits	" 48,155 (\$1,351)	" 57,550 (\$1,554)	" 68,578 (\$1,867)
Loans and Advances	" 28,887 (\$810)	" 32,527 (\$878)	" 38,887 (\$1,059)
Total Assets or Liabilities	" 88,618 (\$2,486)	" 106,232 (\$2,969)	" 121,348 (\$3,304)

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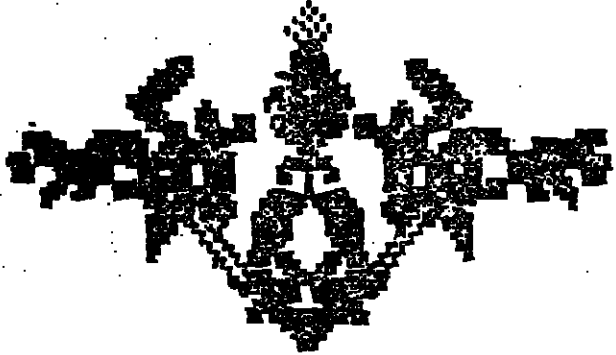
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EXPORT ACTIVITIES TO NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES

by Stephen Farrant

So persistent were rumours in early November of the imminent financial collapse of one 50-ship fleet managed out of Piraeus that the group concerned took the highly unusual step for a Greek firm of publishing its accounts. They showed a net trading profit of just over \$21m for 1976 and a preliminary profit figure not far short of \$10m for the first half of this year.

It was a timely reminder of the fact that Greek operators have in the main survived, and in some cases continue to turn in healthy results on a crisis market which has sent cross-traders under Scandinavian and other flags scurrying for shelter inside government credit schemes, and brought to their knees about 18 leading figures in shipping around the world.

The luckless Colocotronis group—now engaged in a legal marathon with their chief remaining mortgagee, European-American Banking Corporation, over control of those few ships still undisposed of from a 3,500,000-ton fleet—is the only Greek owner of any size yet to succumb.

No other likely candidate has emerged among other big tanker operators, and it is a widely held view that the leading half-dozen or so companies—including names such as Onassis, Nearchos, Goulandris and S. Livanos—are all sitting on a sufficiently large cash-and-assets cushion to ride out even a crisis extended well into the 1980s.

Such indications as occasionally emerge from family

businesses under little obligation to account either to tax authorities or to outside shareholders, suggest that the great majority of the more solid medium-sized fleets managed out of Piraeus, London and New York have also so far weathered the storm in fairly good shape.

It is, though, getting tougher all the time, and those committed to heavy-duty dry-bulk tonnage ordered in Japan during 1975 and 1976 at what were then attractive prices, have been badly hurt by the dollar's recent fall compared with the yen, and the appalling freight market on which those heavily debt-burdened ships must now trade.

Increasing international Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) pressures have meanwhile played a major role in the wholesale switching to home registry over the past 18 months of several million tons previously sailed by Greek-owned flags of convenience. Figures recently released by the Ministry of Maritime Marine suggest that the Greek fleet—rated one place up as the world's fourth largest in Lloyd's Register returns for mid-1977—may now have passed not only the Norwegian but also the 32 million ton British fleet to claim third place behind Liberia and Japan.

End of September ministry returns listed 3,850 ships of 32,600,000 tons on the Greek registry, gains having chiefly been at the expense of Liberia, which still accounts for the bulk of 950 vessels of some 15 million tons operated by Greek, but registered under other flags.

For Greek owners, with no

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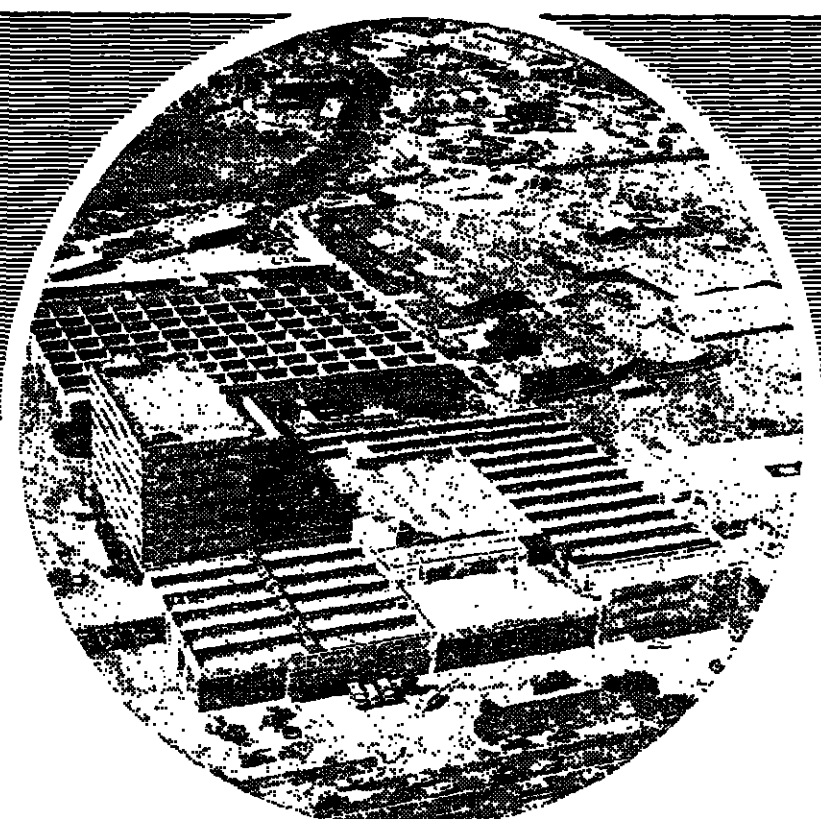
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Hammer and sickle attract one in ten votes

by Mario Modiano

The pro-Soviet Communist Party of Greece (KKE) has just won a resounding victory over its rival, the Communist Party of the Interior, the local brand of Euro-communists, in the Greek elections, setting old scores and reasserting its supremacy among the Greek communists.

It was the first time since 1936 that the KKE stood for election under its own name and the hammer-and-sickle emblem, rather than behind the facade of a popular front. It did rather well.

When Parliament opened this week, the KKE was represented by 11 deputies in a house of 300, including the party's secretary-general, Mr. Barlas Floridis. The rival Euro-communists had only one seat.

KKE polled 480,000 votes, as many as all the Communist factions had obtained in the elections of 1974 which were held after the collapse of the seven-year-long military dictatorship.

Half a million votes is not too impressive in absolute numbers, but in the context it represents one out of every 10 votes. It was the cumulative result of three years of hard (and costly) organizational work, after a ban lasting 30 years.

Above all, it was the culmination of efforts since 1968 to preserve party unity after the emergence of the dissident group which opted for "communism with a human face". The dissidents challenged the party's loyalty to Moscow and its dictatorship of the proletariat and supported the multi-party system and respect for human rights.

The rift came in February, 1968, when the Greek communists working clandestinely in Greece against the dictatorship began to resent taking orders from the party's expatriate leadership secure in the luxuries of Moscow where they settled after the KKE's armed rebellion collapsed in 1949.

During the party's twelfth plenum, a group led by Mr. Dimitri Partalidis, one-time premier of a guerrilla government in Greece, rebelled and accused KKE leaders of losing touch with realities at home. He demanded an equal voice for the men of the so-called Bureau of the Interior, who were taking all the risks in Greece.

The group even managed to seize for a few hours the "Free Greece" radio station located somewhere in East Germany, which was the party's main link with its followers in Greece.

The Soviet leaders gave full backing to the KKE to stamp out the rebellion. The dissidents were forced to flee to Western Europe where they found support from the Euro-communists.

The Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia, which they condemned, deepened the breach. The rebels set up the KKE of the Interior and challenged the KKE's most sacrosanct doctrines.

When the Greek junta collapsed in July 1974 and Mr. Constantine Karamanlis became Prime Minister, he legalized both communist parties and let them take full part in the Greek elections of that year.

Still wallowing in their newly-gained legitimacy, the two factions joined forces with the United Democratic Left (EDA), the party that served as a front for the communists after the KKE was outlawed in 1947 for organizing the civil war. They set up the United Left and polled 9.5 per cent of the vote.

But the KKE gave its supporters discreet guidance to favour only its own candidates on the joint list. When the results came, KKE had elected five deputies, the Interior two, and EDA one.

All efforts for a reunion of the two factions were resisted by the KKE which demanded nothing less than total recantation of the "revisionists" and full submission.

KKE mostly kept a low political profile in the past three years to avoid alarming the Establishment, but it worked hard inside the trade unions and the student associations, where well-disciplined minorities could take control using democratic processes.

The party's success with the students was greater than with the workers. Most of the student unions are today controlled by KKE councils. When the Government attempted to deny the communists this monopoly by legislating compulsory registration in unions, the student unions rebelled and threatened agitation. The plan was given up.

The KKE's defeat of the dissidents in the last elections was impressive. Even Mr. Barlas Floridis, secretary-general of the party "of the Interior" failed to get elected. As for Mr. Partalidis, the man who started it all in 1968, he failed to capture the seat in Kavala where in 1932 he was elected first KKE deputy of the Greek Parliament.

Significantly, in the thick of the pre-election campaign, Mr. Floridis and leading KKE candidates broke off their electioneering to fly to Moscow to join the celebrations for the 1917 Revolution. Clearly they regarded the Kremlin's blessing as far more convincing to their voters than any campaign arguments.

The KKE has now reasserted its identity in Greece for the first time since the last war. And for the first time since 1968, it can claim the loyalty of the bulk of the Greek communists.

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Bureaucracy delays plans for shipyards



The Hellenic shipyard at Skaramangas. Hellenic is the only firm still building vessels of any size.

in 1975 and 1976 for a proposed yard at Aliveri on the coast of Euboea are still lying idle at moorings while the company wrestles with the bureaucrats over small print on land expropriation and other details.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars-worth of work continues meanwhile to be turned away each month in Piraeus, where the Port Authority's two permanent and two floating installations have been worked around the clock since 1972 and could probably have been supplemented by another three or four docks in the 6,000 to 30,000 deadweight range. Here it is a monopoly negotiated in 1963 for the Niarchos yard, and later extended just to Eleusis Shipyard, which prevents any upgrading of repair capacity in the port region, or elsewhere inside a 20-mile radius, before 1985.

It is for all that not an entirely negative picture. The Aliveri project finally looks set fair and it agreed it could be capable of handling repairs from 1979.

Hellenic Shipyards brought its new 500,000 ton graving dock into service on schedule over the summer; the 45,000 deadweight capacity dock at the J. C. Caras managed Khalkis yard north of Athens has been accepting outside contracts since the end of last year, and the Neorion Shipyard run by N. J. Goulamiris confirmed last month the placing of an order in West Germany for a 45,000 deadweight dock due for delivery by next August to join the 70,000 deadweight unit already in service off the island of Syros.

Effectively in public ownership 15 months ago, Eleusis Shipyards recently gave Italian consultants responsibility for a feasibility study of a \$30m conversion of its disused building berth into a graving dock for very large crude carrier repairs.

Overall repair capacity in Greek waters—where some 2,500 vessels of a total 30 million tons have been repaired over the past 12 months—could be expanded by the early 1980s to include a total of 18 dry docks, three of them capable of handling vessels of more than 200,000 tons. If costs can be kept down (and at present they compare fairly well with most of the competition in the Mediterranean), there seems no good reason why the industry should not continue to play a profitable and important national role.

S.F.

Shipyards in Greece are essentially repair yards, and this has been the case for almost two years. Only Hellenic—where Mr Stavros Niarchos may consider it worth while to keep things moving with further "at cost" orders for his own fleet—still has vessels of any size on its books, with the last of a 19-ship run of 37,000 tonnes due for delivery next autumn.

Recent reintroduction by the Government of loan underwriting and state-backed performance guarantees has perhaps come too late to make much difference, even on contracts from developing nations claimed previously to have been lost for lack of credit.

Although it has brought bankruptcy in its wake to at least one previously flourishing Perama builder, it is hardly a tragic situation measured by recent European experience since repairs, refits, conversions and shipbreaking have long been the staple output of the Greek industry. Indeed, long before there was any hint of the way world shipbuilders were going to be battered by the recession, it was the general agreement that Greece could, and should, become a major ship repair centre.

There is a huge fleet to service, the industry is above all a generator of foreign exchange, and shipowners themselves were causing up to almost imported risk capital in yards which at worst could be guaranteed a minimum workload from their own fleets.

For a variety of reasons, extending from a certain mistrust of shipowners' motives that still exists in Government circles to sheer official incompetence, little was to come of such plans under the dictatorship. Those projects revived, or put forward for the first time since democracy was restored in the summer of 1974, can hardly be said to have fared much better.

Environmentalists' protests held back work on a three dock repair yard approved for Pylos for so long that health in May of this year, it now looks like a non-starter; a long-standing project for a medium sized facility at Kalamata was finally rejected by the Ministry of Coordination in August with the Calliannopoulos group involved claim. It was not even offered an official reason for the negative decision.

Two floating docks purchased by Martinis interests

Moves to West resisted

continued from page 19

At local level this official bureaucracy and inefficiency, with its built-in contempt for the citizen, generated much indignation and was felt forced to resort to political patronage in order to get the state to budge even on ordinary duties.

Private investment shrank and industrial production declined for the first time. This was not only because of the international economic recession. Businessmen complained that the Government's policies of socialism and discouraged them from taking risks.

There were other misgivings. Invertebrate anti-communists were shocked by the Government's tolerance towards the communists. They wanted to punish it for allowing communists and anarchists to penetrate schools and universities to indoctrinate and subvert Greek youth.

What is likely to happen now?

The increased strength of the opposition parties in Parliament leaves the Government less latitude to handle major domestic and, particularly, foreign issues at will. That is, up to a point. The Government's policy of the last chamber, but even then it heeded opposition objections to a remarkable degree.

The emergence of Pasok as the main opposition party, presumably with some chance of climbing to power in a future election, can hardly delude the economic establishment or stimulate investments in enterprises that could be taken over by the state if Pasok won.

Some observers argue, however, that this could work both ways: if the establishment continues boycotting Mr Karamanlis' drive for rapid economic development, they will simply enhance Pasok's chances in the next elections.

Pasok's opposition to full Greek membership of the EEC may also influence developments in contradictory ways: the Nine may decide to speed up admission in order to strengthen the pro-European forces in Greece. Alternatively, those Community members opposing enlargement could argue that Greek admission would be futile since, if Pasok came to power, Greece might pull out again.

Better Times for Greek Farmers



In the fulfilment of its programme, O.G.A. in the current year is spending more than 12 billion drachmae. This is divided as follows:

- 7.3 billions for pensions
- 2.0 billions for medical treatment
- 2.0 billions for crop insurance

This is a quite significant expenditure when one considers that this sum represents about 10% of the total agricultural income. However, because O.G.A. is financed by funds drawn from mainly outside the agricultural sector, i.e. from general taxation, income tax, tax on luxury goods, etc., this means an income redistribution through O.G.A., a transfer of national income from well-off to less well-off, in other words to the agricultural population. Farmers do, however, pay a wholesale levy on their products but this levy does not exceed 15% of O.G.A.'s income.

O.G.A.'s administration structure is based on two principles. These are the total decentralisation of its activities and the use of large capacity computers, and the local state services (clerks of communities, magistrates, agronomists, etc.) are used by O.G.A. as its agents in provincial areas where they ensure that the organisation are helped on the spot without any difficulty. The central administration is in Athens and is responsible for general control and the checking of documentation sent in by the agents so in this way with low administration costs not exceeding 2% of its revenue, O.G.A. has managed by dint of its up to date organisation based on computerisation to succeed in insuring 3.6 million people, representing over 40% of the Greek population. Even today the difficulties in insuring all these people are great because of the widespread distribution of the farming community.

Within the frame of government policy, O.G.A.'s future prospects are very positive for:

- (a) improvement and simplification of insurance procedure for dealing more quickly with insured members
- (b) increasing the values of pensions
- (c) improvement and integration of medical treatment, which is of paramount concern to the Greek Government. Some measures have already been announced, for example free drugs for chronic diseases, foundation of new medical stations in the provinces, and modernisation of those which already exist with appropriate permanent staff and equipment
- (d) the improvement of crop insurance and other associated cover.

Now that Greece is applying for entry into the EEC, O.G.A. has begun to examine relevant problems and the necessary measures which will be required to be taken in time to coordinate the whole of this insurance scheme into the framework of the Common Market.

O.G.A., The National Crop and Agricultural Social Insurance, is responsible for the social security of farmers and those people who live in small towns with under 5,000 inhabitants and villages. O.G.A. was founded in 1961 and has achieved much since then.

In order to see and understand its task, one should look back to conditions before its foundation. Surprisingly, there was no major protection for the farmers. Old age meant abandonment. Disability meant no work and tragedy for himself and his family. These meant survival problems leading to exploitation and loss of his property. Damage to his crop meant shortage and misery. O.G.A. was founded to remedy this situation and its foundation was indeed a milestone in agricultural development. It meant relief for misery, help to counter life's misfortunes, support and assurance for aged people. It abolished stress, strain and uncertainty. Furthermore, it established confidence and security for farmers, cattle raisers, fishermen and in general for everybody living in rural areas.

O.G.A. today carries out the following:

- (a) gives pensions to 450,000 aged people
- (b) gives pensions to 70,000 invalids, disabled because of accident, diseases or even invalid since birth
- (c) it gives free medical treatment for them and their family. About 270,000 sick people are treated each year
- (d) it insures crops against hail and frost which are the main hazards in Greece. Every year about 300,000 to 600,000 damage claims from these causes are received
- (e) acting as an agent of the Ministry of Social Services, O.G.A. pays family allowances to all entitled rural and urban families.

GREECE'S ELECTRICAL ECONOMY ENTERS A NEW PHASE OF PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Stretching out to every corner of the Greek soil, the powerlines symbolise today the extent and importance of the efforts of the Public Power Corporation. They also stand as the reward of a hard drive for the electrification of the country in harmony with modern technology and contemporary life requirement. Dating back to 1950 when the PPC was established, those efforts never ceased to set new objectives for a better social and economic life for the Greek people.

1950: A START-UP FOR ELECTRIFICATION

The power service the population was receiving twenty-seven years ago could easily be thought of as practically nonexistent or substandard. This is readily explained by the fact that, apart from Athens, Piraeus, Patras and Thessaloniki, all other towns were serviced by low-voltage local stations, operating for a limited period of time every day and selling power at prohibitive rates for the many. So, even though electricity was mostly used for lighting purposes in rural parts, neither the villages nor the rural settlements had access to it. In contrast with the rest of the country, Athens was in fact the only urban centre whose economic and social life was appreciably affected by the applications of electricity.

In exact numbers, the total output of the 400 local stations operating in 1950 barely reached 630 million kilowatt-hours and consumption flickered at 538 million kilowatt-hours. Per capita consumption dwindled at just 71 kilowatt-hours a year.

Of this 538 million KWH consumption, Athens and Piraeus absorbed 452 million KWH, leaving a meagre 86 million KWH for the rest of the country and forming a top-heavy power pattern whereby the capital with 18% of the total population answered for 85% of the consumption and the remaining 82% of the population accounted for just 15% of the total demand. Accordingly, each Athenian consumed a mean 321 KWH a year compared to a scanty 14 KWH for each inhabitant of all other parts.

In 1950, the total installed capacity of Greece's power stations stood at 223,000 KW of which 133,000 KW were gathered in Athens and Piraeus. Besides oil-firing represented 98% of the total output leaving a tiny 2% of hydro-power generation. As a result, the power production depended directly and exclusively on oil imports whereas lignite as primary potential was still unknown to the infantile power economy of those days.

1977: ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTLOOK ON THE ELECTRIFICATION IN GREECE

PPC's contribution to the electrification of the country is chiefly represented by fast rising rates of growth, new structures in our power economy and far-reaching targets.

A comparison with the figure for 1950 reveals that the installed capacity of PPC stations is today 22 times higher (4,836,000 KW), the output 28 times greater (18,000 million KWH), the consumption 30 times higher (16,400 million KWH) and that from 71 KWH for 1950, the per capita yearly consumption has soared to 1,780 KWH.

Today Athens, Piraeus and the entire District of Attiki represent only 36% of the total power sales instead of the 85% of those sales for 1950. Accordingly, from 14 KWH for 1950, the rural per capita consumption has climbed to 1,623 KWH giving the measure of the nationwide rationalization of the power service pattern.

By 1977 the PPC had practically accomplished its rural electrification programme which has been for years an important part of the power plans. Spreading over 9,800 towns, villages and settlements the power networks are offering service to 98.9% of the entire population and cater to basic requirements of the national economy.

This year the sales to industrial customers will absorb 9,200 million KWH or 56% of the total demand leaving 4,200 million KWH for the domestic market, 2,130 million to the commercial market and 250 million KWH to farming applications. Touching on the agricultural market, it is to be noted that by electrifying a large number of irrigation units this year, their total will rise to 61,500 units capable of irrigating 3.1 million streamlines of farmland.

Irrespective, however, of the above, the main feature of PPC's past, present and future policies, is the unceasing effort to strengthen national autonomy by developing for this purpose the domestic resources, i.e. the coalfields and the hydraulic potential.

In the above context, from a total dependence on oil imports for 1950, the power primaries today consist of 70% from lignite and waterfalls and only 30% from imported oil. Planned progressive utilization of domestic resources until 1986 will further diminish the oil-firing share to 19% by the end of the decade.

Yet an even greater cut of the oil share is anticipated for the decade 1980-1990 by maximizing the utilization of coalfields, waterfalls and possibly the available geothermal and natural gas resources. In parallel, nuclear power always remains a possible solution for the Greek power economy.

FINANCIAL DATA

The Public Power Corporation, as the sole producer, carrier and distributor of electrical energy in Greece, is today the country's largest technical and financial organization. When the PPC was instituted in 1950 it had been financed by the Greek state with a founding capital of \$125 million. In 1975, the PPC's total assets amounted to \$2,308 million while at the end of 1976 to \$2,452 million.

The PPC's net fixed assets in 1975 were valued at \$1,989 million, in 1976 totalled \$3,637 million KWH in 1976 totalled 15,023 million KWH and are expected to rise to 16,400 million KWH in 1977.

Revenues from the sale of electric current in 1975 were the equivalent of \$419 million, in 1976 were the equivalent of \$553 million.

THE INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

The PPC's investments in production, transmission and distribution works in 1976 totalled \$297 million and are expected to amount to \$312 million in 1977.

Similar investments during the next five year period from 1977 to 1981 are expected to exceed a total of \$3,000 million.

ENERGY PROJECTS WORTH \$460 MILLION

A good indication of the dynamic policies of the PPC is the fact that this organization—which now employs 28,000 salaried personnel—has launched one of the country's largest development projects worth \$460 million with the contracts signed in the space of three months, referred to above and concerning the new Ptolemais South Field lignite mine, the two new steam-electric units for the Kardis station and the Pournari hydroelectric project—all of which are to be completed by 1981.

Another example of the PPC's dynamic quality is its credit standing in the international capital market, not only in cases where the financing is linked to specific contracts with foreign firms supplying materials or equipment or with contractors executing large electrification works in Greece, but also in the free and direct financing of its investment programme. Thus, on October 12, 1976, an agreement was signed in London for a direct loan to the PPC of \$75 million to cover part of the expenses of its energy investment programme in 1976. This loan was made by a group of banks headed by the Bankers Trust Company.

Published by the Greek Public Power Corporation

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It was agreed that uncertainty and confusion existed in the road haulage industry over the delay by the EEC Commission of their decision on the way in which the drivers' hours and distances regulations would be implemented. Mr. William Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, said:

Design life of some motorways ending

A suggestion that the construction standard of some motorways was now seen to have been substandard.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Monday 2.30: Motion on Rule Support Grant Order. Social Security (Contributions, re-rating). Order. Diocese Church of England Measure.

House of Lords

Monday Various Northern Ireland Orders. Con Barrel Proof Bill, Committee Royal Assent. Auburn for

Heavy lorries

Mr John Horam, Under Secretary for Transport, in a written reply, said: The extent to which heavy goods vehicles are involved in fatal accidents has been falling steadily over recent years. In order to reinforce this trend, we hope to introduce shortly proposals for legislation which will strengthen the controls of over-lading and bad maintenance.

Christmas Recross

Donations will be gratefully received by the Hon. Treasurer, The Southwell Cathedral Reservation, East, Trebeck Hall, Bishop's Drive, Southwell, Notts NG25 0JP.

Conservative MPs demand inquiry into statements in letter from Czech defector

Concern at increase of trade in

horsesmeat

House of Lords

The United Kingdom was virtually the least afforested nation in Europe with only 8 per cent of its land area wooded.

Speaker of Gylys (Lah) said an opening a debate on the state of the forestry industry.

Lord Taylor, who until 18 months ago was chairman of the Forestry Commission, said the chairmanship of a forestry company, said he

hoped the House would accept three propositions. The first was that an expansionist forestry policy was a good thing for Britain, the second was that since forestry in-

Stations in roads

port (Mr William Rodgers) is to make a statement on the review of the working of the new system in relation to chiselled numbers after the vote. Mr John Hannan

Optimistic about future of

lot of correspondence in *The Times* in regard to replanting but which was so far beyond human control. Yet at the same time millions of young trees died unplanted

ts at increasing restrict

They could not do without dogs but had to ensure that elementary

European MPs upset by Commons decision about direct elections

of forestry industry

always practicable, but where it was those woods should be exempted from capital transfer tax and any possible future wealth tax. Lord Burton said owners had been

ions on dogs

gives the public a choice between those areas where they could go to be free of dogs and those where dog owners could exercise their



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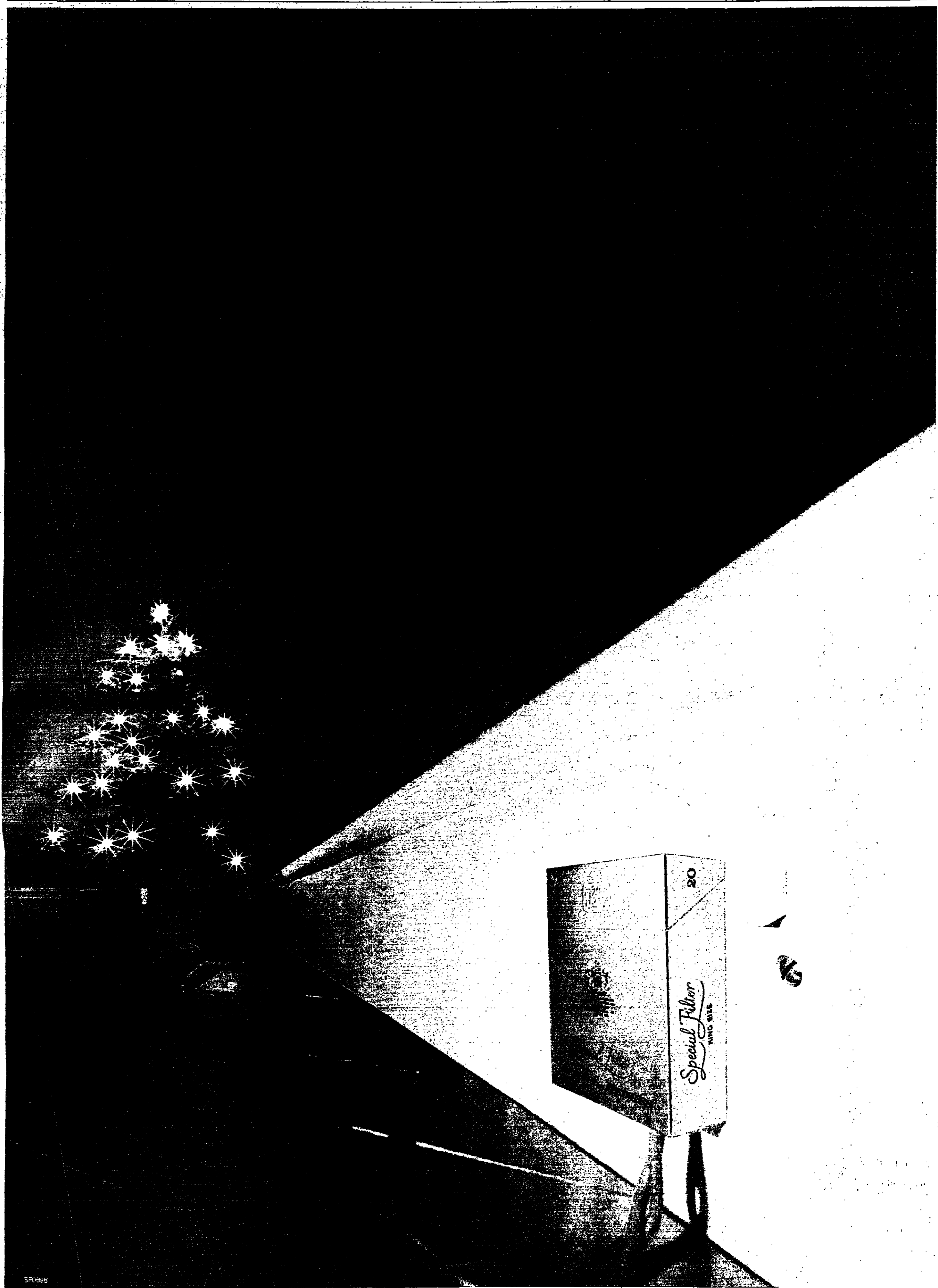
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THE TIMES

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MIDDLE TAR As defined by H.M. Government
H.M. Government Health Departments' WARNING:
CIGARETTES CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH

Andrei Sakharov argues that savagery can beget only savagery

This is an extract from a message sent by Andrei Sakharov to the Amnesty International Conference held in Stockholm on December 10 and 11.

I regard the death penalty as a savage and immoral institution which undermines the moral and legal foundations of a society. A state, in the person of its functionaries, who like all people are inclined to make superficial conclusions, who like all people are subject to influences, connections, prejudices and egocentric motivations for their behaviour, takes upon itself the right to the most terrible and irreversible act—the deprivation of life. Such a state cannot expect an improvement of the moral atmosphere in its country. I reject the notion that the death penalty has any essential deterrent effect on potential offenders. I am convinced that the contrary is true—that savagery begets only savagery.

I deny that the death penalty is practically necessary or effective as a means of defending society. The temporary isolation of offenders, which may be necessary in some cases must be achieved by more humane and more flexible measures which can be amended in the event of judicial error or changes in society or in the personality of the offender.

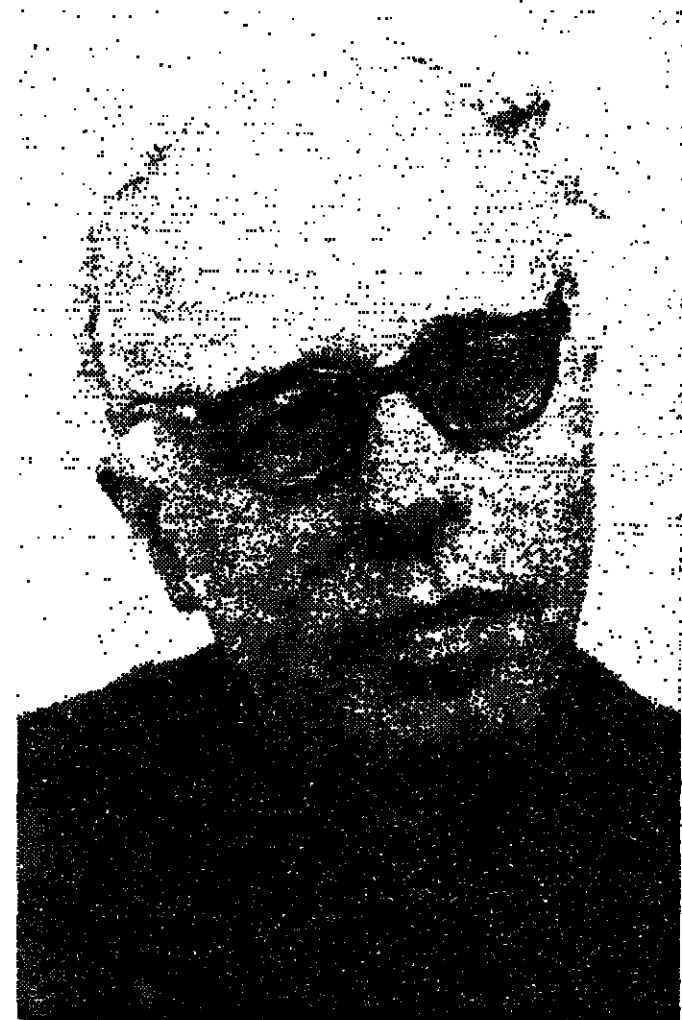
I am convinced that society as a whole and each of its members individually, not just the person who comes before the courts, bear a responsibility for the occurrence of a crime. There are no simple solutions for reducing and eliminating crime and in any event the death penalty provides no answer. The reduction of crime and even its full elimination can be achieved in the future only through prolonged evolution of society, a general humanistic ascent instilling in people a deep respect for life and human reason and greater attentiveness to the difficulties and problems of one's neighbour. So humane a society is now no more than a dream.

and only manifestation of humanness today can create hope for the possibility of its future realization.

I consider that the essential importance of the full abolition of the death penalty justifies looking away from those objections by advocates of its retention which are based on fragmentary exceptional circumstances.

While still a child I read with shuddering the distinguished anthology *Against the Death Penalty*, published in Russia with the participation of my grandfather I. N. Sakharov in 1906-1907 during the years of executions after the 1905 revolution (Sydn Publishers). I know the impassioned statements of the writers Lev Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Hugo, Korolenko, Rozanov, Andreyev and many others. From the above-mentioned anthology I know the arguments of a number of scholars—Solovyov, Bazhenov (the psychology of condemned persons), Gerasimov, Golovinskiy, Davydov and others. I share their conviction that with its psychological horror the death penalty is not commensurate with the majority of crimes and that it is never a just retribution or punishment. And I believe that the death penalty has no moral or practical justification and represents a survival of barbaric customs of revenge. Bloodthirsty and calculated revenge, with no personal danger for the executioners, with no temporary insanity on the part of the judges, and therefore shameful and disgusting.

I pause briefly on the currently widely discussed subject of terrorism. I consider that the death penalty is totally inappropriate for crimes of terrorism and other political crimes committed with fanatical motives. In such cases the death penalty serves only as a catalyst for a more massive psychosis of lawlessness and savagery. This does not mean that I in any way justify contemporary political terrorism, often accompanied by the death of uninvolved persons who just happen to be on the scene, by the taking of hostages including children and by other dreadful crimes. However, I am convinced that prison confinement, possibly under laws which would in cases indicated by the court forbid release ahead of sentence, is a more rational means of physical and psychological isolation of terrorists for the prevention of further acts of terror.



sons who just happen to be on the scene, by the taking of hostages including children and by other dreadful crimes. However, I am convinced that prison confinement, possibly under laws which would in cases indicated by the court forbid release ahead of sentence, is a more rational means of physical and psychological isolation of terrorists for the prevention of further acts of terror.

The abolition of the death penalty is especially important in such a country as ours, with its unrestricted dominance of

state power and uncontrollable bureaucracy and its widespread contempt for law and moral values. You know of the countless cases of innocent people which were carried out without any semblance of justice (while still more people perished without any court judgment at all). We are still living in the moral atmosphere created in that era.

Ronald Butt

The shades of grey in the race argument

The furor over the Labour Party's broadcast on the National Front has reawakened in my mind some thoughts on the question of immigration and race that were stimulated by a recent BBC television programme (Everman) whose subject was Bishop Trevor Huddleston.

To the Bishop, as to many other people who are actively concerned with race, the matter seemed a simple one of good and evil on different sides of a pretty clear cut argument. Yet there are, I suspect, many more who have a Christian or a Christian-derived morality, and for whom there can never be any question of a chosen race, or of an innately superior folk, but who, nevertheless, find the matter by no means so simple in their consciences.

Thought "race" was never defined in this broadcast, it was clear that, for Bishop Huddleston, to take the correct position about race is almost the ultimate test of virtue, and even of religious truth. Race, he said, was "the one single issue that matters most". It is "the one thing that matters to the coming generations". Repeatedly he said it in slightly different words. "I have spent my working life on this theme of race. At the end, one was almost left with the feeling that to him, Christianity has come to be about almost only one thing—race."

For him, moreover, the argument also plainly transcends any other political and social considerations. The ultimate test of a political party's rectitude was, it seemed, to be judged primarily in terms of race, and all other political questions seemed subordinate to it.

Thus he began by stating his agreement with the position of the far

left, including the Communist Party, on race. Though he said that this did not mean that he agreed with the Communist Party on everything, one was left with the impression that other matters to him were of small comparative importance. He attacked, with considerable bitterness, both the Labour and Conservative parties for their attitude to immigration. Their motives, he said without elaboration, was votes.

This is a less charitable way of looking at it than I should have thought was justified. Of course, politicians sometimes buy votes slyly by false promises. Yet in a democracy, the business of a political party is, as best it can, and within the consciences of those who offer themselves as politicians, to respond to the wishes of the majority of the people.

But apart from the question of the politicians' responses to the electorate, what about "race" itself—the "one single issue that matters most"? To express it in such terms is surely to look at the question rather as the National Front itself does—obsessively, although, of course, from the opposite side.

But what does race mean to the average decent citizen who, excepting the essential unity of mankind, and understanding his moral obligation to people of all "races", nevertheless has a special sense of belonging to his own people, and wants to live with them?

For many who do not think themselves cut off from Christian morality, there is, for instance, a question which perhaps does not trouble Bishop Huddleston: what rights should be allowed to a citizen of people who wish to preserve what

they see as their identity by placing restrictions on people from other cultures and nations who wish to come to their country to work?

This is not a problem confined to blacks, whites and browns. In many Welsh valleys, there is resentment when too many English settle there, and we are not usually called fascists if we express some sympathy with this. And it is caused not primarily because the English settlers drive up the price of property or take jobs, though some make these claims. It is because the new arrivals change the essential communal and cultural nature of the place. It is surely this, and not primarily fears about jobs and houses, that is at the root of the growing native resentment in many English cities about immigration.

Prejudice, or to use a less hostile word, preference for one's own community exists for probably most people anyway, regardless of jobs and housing. We may not think it ought to be so in a perfect world. But it is as real as the preference for one's own family, which can also present a moral problem when it conflicts with wider obligations, though I do not think that anyone (except those who want the dominance of the state) would argue that the special ties of the family are wrong on that account.

How far, then, is the very idea of nationhood or "race", the sense of kindred based on history, language, culture and physical shape (not to mention the indefinable nuances of shared tradition and mutual understanding) morally wrong?

Of course, race cannot be defined and of course it can lead to evil, as it has in South Africa. Bishop Huddleston's position has, indeed, to be

understood in the context of his long and brave concern about the attitude of one race to another which began with his ministry in the 1930s.

But to understand the Bishop's motivation is not necessarily to agree with his method of expressing it. This is dangerous because it palpably has so much anger in it, and anger is dangerously communicative. When, for instance, the Bishop of Southwark goes marching in righteous anger on this issue, he risks creating anger that is not so righteous in the minds of people who are not evil but who feel that their position is simply misunderstood and defied. The danger is that these people will be driven into the ranks of those the Bishops fear most.

Perhaps, in an ideal world, there would be no narrow loyalties to family, tribe or nation. Yet the world in which we live is built on these loyalties, and on the natural instinct of most people for the closer the more individual loyalty, rather than that which is distant, abstract or strange.

We need such loyalties because it is easier to love what we know well and understand. The easy shorthand of racial exclusivity, where manners and jokes are shared, where offence is neither easily given nor taken, is important to the life of any community. In many of our cities this easy sense of understanding has gone, and what is left is a cold, alienating, and carries the risk of misunderstanding.

To very many people, these are the real problems. They do not feel themselves consumed by race hatred, but only unjustly censured by those who do not understand their feelings and whose policies they feel have to live with. Of course,

evil can result from their anxieties, yet it seems to me hard, in a world in which we have the horrors of Cambodia and Uganda, and Communist mental prisons, to conclude that "race" is the "single" thing that matters most, or to assume that evil is all on one side of the argument.

Which brings me back to the Labour Party's broadcast on the National Front. The danger is not simply that this sort of exercise gives the National Front free publicity, since we cannot be sure whether it will help that body or hinder it. The trouble is rather that many people who have voted National Front, or who try out of a kind of desperation with doing so, may feel that since this malignant cap is intended to fit them, they might as well put it on. They are neither racists nor fascists. They are people who may as well have their patriotism, they are now allowed, and wonder what kind of justice it is that brushes aside their misgivings so contemptuously by regarding them as no more than a morose fodder for the National Front.

To these questions there are no quick and easy solutions. To the extent that the answer lies in morals rather than politics, it must surely depend chiefly on preaching general moral attitudes that promote values transcending questions of race.

The answer cannot be to so relish righteous anger against the National Front that the need for understanding the feelings of those whom they cajole with evil are dismissed as irrelevant. It ill behoves those in the political parties, or the church, who have led so many people into so much temptation, to seem to damn them, without a real understanding, when they fail to resist it.

Many will remember, for example, the case of Rokotov and Faibishenko, who were charged in 1961 with underground trade in valuables and illegal currency operations. In the time when these two had already been sentenced to prison confinement the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet adopted a law which provided the death penalty for major property crimes. They were put on trial again and in violation of the most elementary judicial principle they were sentenced retroactively to death.

Subsequently many others were sentenced to death under this and similar laws, especially for private enterprise activity, the organization of cartels, etc. The total number of executions in the USSR is not known—these facts are officially secret—but there are grounds to suppose that it now comprises several hundred persons a year—that is, more than in most other countries where this barbaric institution still exists. There are also other features of our contemporary reality which are relevant to the matter under discussion. I mean the grossly low cultural and moral level of our present criminal procedure, its subservience to the state and frequently its corruption, accessibility to bribes and dependence on local "leadership".

I receive a great many letters from persons convicted in criminal cases. Although I cannot check out these cases in every concrete instance, taken altogether, they create an extremely terrible picture of illegality and injustice, of superficial and prejudiced investigation, of the impossibility of obtaining review of clearly mistaken or dubious verdicts, of beatings during police questioning.

Some of these cases involve death sentences. Here is one such case. I have before me a copy of the verdict in the case of Rafkat Shaimukhamedov, documents on his case prepared by lawyers, letters by his mother. On May 31, 1974, in Issyk-Kul Shaimukhamedov, a worker and by national-

ity a Tatar, was sentenced to be shot. He had been convicted of murdering a female shop assistant with motives of robbery together with two young accomplices. (The latter were sentenced to several years' imprisonment.) Shaimukhamedov denied his guilt, refused to ask for pardon and declared a hunger strike. He passed 20 months in the death cell expecting either execution or a review of his case.

Throughout this time his mother and lawyers submitted dozens of complaints, but all higher instances sent them back without any examination of the matter. In January 1976, the sentence was carried out with the sanction of the Deputy Procurator of the USSR, Malyarov.

The court verdict on Shaimukhamedov is striking for its illegality, both in the literal sense of the word, its lack of proofs and its contradictory nature. An even more vivid picture emerges from the complaints of the lawyers. The convicted person's presence at the scene of the crime was not proved. The court ignored the contradictory versions of the accusation, the testimony of witnesses and the facts of the expert examination (according to which the victim's blood group did not match that of a spot of blood found on Shaimukhamedov's clothing). The mother's letters state that the reason for this bias was the selfish material interest of two procurators (Bekboeva and Kleshina). She describes scenes of extortion, bribes received by them from another accused, the fabrication of a criminal case against her second son with the same goal of extortion already after the shooting of Rafkat. I cannot verify these reports, but to me the main thing is clear: with what ease and absence of argument the death penalty was passed, and how easily so terrible a case becomes routine.

I have dwelt on this case in detail because it seems to me that it clearly reflects the complete horror of the death penalty and its corrupting effect on society.

Some cross letters have been reaching me about the changes we are to make next November in the transmission of radio networks, more particularly the move of Radio 4 from medium to long wave.

People feel strongly about radio. About half the population listen to it at some time or other every day—over a longer period the entire population of the United Kingdom—so the strength of this feeling is understandable.

What I have to say in explanation of and justification for the changes is in the knowledge that they will inconvenience and perhaps annoy a lot of listeners. I heartily wish it could be otherwise.

We are changing the long and medium wavelengths of our national networks for two main reasons: to protect them as far as possible from foreign interference, and to allow some improvement in coverage and reception. The VHF transmission of all our services will remain the same.

However, as a result of the increased power and number of radio stations that will be operating in Europe after November 1978 we can expect much greater interference, particularly after dark. If Radio 3, for example, remained on its present wavelength, it would have its night-time coverage reduced to only about 20 per cent of the population. Moving it to another medium wave, 1215kHz/247m, as present used by Radio 1, will protect it from some of this interference.

We know that a high proportion of Radio 3 listeners in the evening already use VHF, which can be received almost everywhere. The two new medium wavelengths allocated to Radio 1 (1089kHz/275m and 1053kHz/285m) will give it better coverage, and we have made this change because Radio 1 has no VHF service.

Radio 4 moves from long wave to two medium wave channels (693kHz/433m and 909kHz/330m), will be available throughout the United Kingdom, in the daytime reception in many places will be better than from the present long wave service. After dark reception in some areas may be affected by interference, so my advice is to use VHF whenever possible.

Radio 4 moves to two long waves: 200kHz/1500m and 277kHz/1322m. It will be easy to receive anywhere and will become a truly linked Kingdom service for the first time. Listeners in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will continue to receive their own national services on medium wave, but will therefore be free to develop without depriving listeners in those countries of anything on the basic Radio 4 United Kingdom service. In the same way some medium wave transmission of Radio 2 will continue in Devon and Cornwall.

The majority of listeners will need only to tune to a new point on the dial on the morning of Thursday, November 23, 1978. Most are already equipped to receive the wavelengths we shall be using in the future. Eighteen million licence reminders delivered to homes before next November will

include a leaflet setting out the new wavelengths and frequencies.

Nevertheless, because the pattern of areas of good coverage for each service will change, and interference in some areas will increase, some listeners may find themselves in difficulties. It is these listeners who concern us.

Radio 3's medium wave service after November will be subject to more interference. So Radio 3 listeners should be prepared to tune to VHF. This will apply to Radio 2 listeners in some areas after dark.

Many of the Radio 4 audience in England now listen on medium wave. Next November they must switch to long wave or to VHF. On VHF, however, the service includes educational broadcasting as an alternative to some Radio 4 programmes at present on medium wave. Our concern for some Radio 4 listeners arises from the knowledge that in 1975 there were many radio sets in the country without a long wave band—just under five million out of a total of 38 million in fact—and some of those sets did not have VHF either.

But we also know that most households own more than one set, so the number of households containing Radio 4 listeners without a long wave or VHF facility is much less than five million. Nevertheless, we do not want to deprive a single listener of any of our services.

There is no single transmission system on any wavelength or frequency that can guarantee a 100 per cent coverage free from interference throughout the country on every radio set. Many radios are portable and a set which receives one of our networks satisfactorily in one place may be unable to receive it on the same wavelength in another, not only because of foreign interference but because of local geography or localized interference.

That is why the best general advice we can give for the future—and it is equally true now—is that listeners having long, medium and VHF bands will provide the full service from BBC Radio.

Anyone with such a receiver will be able to choose the best reception for any locality from two Radio 4 services: long wave and a partial VHF service; two medium waves and a VHF service from Radio 2; two long waves and a VHF service from Radio 4; and one medium wave and a VHF service from Radio 1. In the national regions Radio Scotland, Radio Wales, Radio Cymru and Radio Ulster will continue on medium wave and VHF.

We are to spend £3m on installing a large number of new transmitters and aerial systems. As a result the great majority will find that they can still receive their chosen BBC radio service just as well before, and in many cases better.

We believe that the new arrangement will provide for the best possible coverage for all our services, take into account the technical facts of life and the needs of listeners throughout the United Kingdom.

Howard Newby

The author is managing director, BBC Radio.

It is, I think, a pity that the blurb, "an international message of peace, for all peoples of all countries". And not forgetting the Christmas market.

Atlantic City seems to be preparing thoroughly for its conversion to America's next big-time gambling town. Although legal restrictions may prevent it rivaling Las Vegas, the city will see considerable changes.

The catalogue of the Overbrook-Edgewood adult school there now offers a "casino gambling" course and, under the beckoning headline "Calling all Gamblers! Be ready for the launch of the rules and odds of games of chance, including baccarat, roulette, dice, blackjack, poker and slot machines. Probability and statistics will also be discussed. Students will simulate actual

conditions around roulette and craps tables and will learn about the rules and odds of each game. Since registration began in August, the class seems to be an odds-on favourite among the courses offered.

The instructor is one Victor Falls (an unfortunate name). He is a schoolteacher from Overbrook Regional Senior School (where his subject is naturally mathematics). I gather that after graduating from college, Mr. Falls spent six months in Las Vegas working as a croupier.

Presumably those who complete the course successfully will receive some certificate of competence. Those who fail may receive a certificate of bankruptcy.

Handle with caution

A letter from the Devil to all his disciples and dated "autumnum terre in nostro palatio tenebrosus" is obviously to be treated with caution. Sothy's took no chances when they sold out, together with a group of medieval map tracts, yesterday. The catalogue states that it is "an apparently autograph by C. A. N. L. Mumb. The Alabaster Hand, 1950, pp. 18/2 and 19/2. I think that on should.

Britain's most famous marmalade. Thick, rich, chunkily chewable. Dark with the unmistakable aroma of Seville oranges. From Oxford it was carried around the world to the Antarctic, the Americas, even Everest itself. And became a part of the great tradition of the British breakfast.

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FRANK COOPER makes the marmalade that makes the British breakfast.

A voice crying in the wilderness

It was almost a case of the voice crying in the wilderness when Sir Roger Falk, first and last director of the liquidated British Export Trade Research Organisation, wrote to this newspaper in August to bestow praise on the most recent opus from Sir Kenneth Berrill's "think tank".

This, you will remember, dealt with Britain's overseas representation and it would be an understatement to say it was generally ill-received. Sir Roger (in consequence) became rather the odd man out—although a "hero in the eyes of the think tank", as he himself puts it—but it was nevertheless largely on the strength of his praise that MPs on the Commons expenditure committee, now deliberating on the Central Policy Review Staff report, invited him to go along on Tuesday night to explain himself. Their curiosity was manifest.

It was soon satisfied. Sir Roger jovially admitted that he dashed off his letter on the strength of a "pretty good" summary in *The Times*. He actually read the report some what later, when he managed to assemble the £8.50 required, and discovered that he (like so many others) violently disagreed with most of it.

Calling an amanuensis

Now available. Historic house in Covent Garden. Built 1759 and site of original meeting between Boswell and Dr Johnson. Lease for not less than £4,500 per annum.

This is the bargain currently advertised by the Greater London Council (backed up with illustrated brochure) who suggest that in keeping with the history and geography of the place—the new owner might care to set it up as a bookshop or coffee house.

In view of that first meeting between Boswell and Johnson, in which apparently the former had the misfortune to say that he did come from Scotland but could not help it, perhaps the GLC might also care to offer it to the Scots Nats as their London headquarters.

Too much of a liability

Those on the receiving end of consumer criticism should derive some consolation from the fact that occasionally an unkind fate dictates that even the Consumers' Association does things back to front.

A fortnight ago, its legal officer went to Brussels to agree with representatives of Europe's consumer organizations a united

THE TIMES DIARY/ PHS

Calling an amanuensis

Yesterday afternoon, the CA was represented at a conference convened by the National Consumer Council to settle what the British consumer organizations' common attitude on the subject should be.

And finally last night, the Consumers Association's governing council met to discuss what its own policy should be. At the time of writing, it is too early to know whether the CA agreed with what it had already agreed. Meanwhile a question: Is there anything so unheard of, yet so much talked about, as product liability?

Wobbly nickname

Joel Barnett, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, has a new nickname as a result of an error, twice made, in the Parliamentary Report for December. In a written answer, setting out a letter from Michael Latham, Conservative MP for Merton, he is addressed as: "Dear Joel". In the next column this is repeated. Mr Latham assures me the error was made by the printer, not properly "Dear Joel". Unfortunately slip, for we now have a "Joel" to rival "Judy", the nickname of the late Col Claude Lancaster, who was MP for South Fylde.

We are the masters - I mean mistresses - now...



Cashing in on peace

Hot on the heels of the over-Atlantic City for peace, the concert of commercialism. Following what it calls "the historic peace meeting in the Middle East", CBS Records have breathlessly produced a special recording of a former Edson John number called *Love Song*.

Finding ways to lose it

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LIB-LAB RELATIONS

The rejection by the House of Commons of proportional representation for the European Parliament, and in particular the size of the rebellious Labour minority, has brought a new uncertainty to British politics. But this does not mean that there is bound to be an early general election. The Liberals have been gravely embarrassed. Their position was already difficult enough. The parliamentary pact they formed with Labour last March has brought considerable advantages to the Government. It has given a new lease of life and sense of security to an administration that was on the brink of defeat and it has coincided with a period of more effective and acceptable rule. How far it has been the cause of the second of those changes may well be disputed, though it has at least provided Mr Callaghan with a useful additional argument for the moderate policies that he would in all probability have wished to pursue anyway.

But whether or not it is fair for the Liberals to claim the credit they have not yet been given it by the electorate. With the exception of Saffron Walden, where the result could be interpreted in more than one way, the by-elections have been disappointing for them. They are seen not as the people's watchdog but as the Government's poodle. This is largely because they are believed to have kept

Ministers in office without exercising any powerful, positive influence over them. So those who disapprove of the Government blame the Liberals for maintaining them in power, while those who believe that the country is now being governed relatively well give the credit to Mr Callaghan.

This does not prove that the Liberals were wrong to form the pact. They were then, as they are now, seeking some avenue of escape from a position of weakness. But it does emphasize the dilemma in which they now find themselves. They do not want to maintain the pact at the price of public humiliation. Proportional representation for the European Parliament was one of the principal benefits they had hoped to extract from the agreement, and if there was not a majority for that in the present House of Commons they felt that at least they should not be thwarted by a substantial number of Labour votes. They must want to show that they are not a pushover for Mr Callaghan.

But they must also know that the method of election to the European Parliament is not the sort of issue on which it would be wise to break the pact. Mr Steel himself said as much in a television interview last Sunday. The case for preferring proportional representation for these elections has been argued often enough in these columns, but it would be ridiculous to pretend

that this is a question that sets the nation alight. Moreover, they have reached the point at which they would get the worst of all worlds if they were to jettison the pact now. They have already incurred the odium and they would not be giving themselves the chance of seeing if they might in due course get some support for acting as a moderating influence. To change course at this stage would also make nonsense of the strategy that Mr Steel has followed and would therefore undermine his leadership even if it did not provoke a leadership crisis. But there can be no doubt of the mounting criticism of the pact within the party.

The withdrawal of the Liberals from the pact would destroy the Government's sense of security, but it might not force a general election. It might be thought that Nationalist parties would not wish to unseat the Government until not only the Scotland and Wales Bills are on the statute book but the respective referendums have been held as well—although in the case of the Scottish Nationalists at any rate that does not seem a very realistic assumption. Most of the Northern Irish MPs would also be likely to support the Government. So the Government would probably retain a parliamentary majority on paper without that assurance of being able to plan ahead that is the main benefit which has been conferred on them by the pact with the Liberals.

Defending Europe from missile attack

From Lord Kennet
Sir, Your sensible article "The defence of Europe" (December 10) omits, as does almost all public discussion, one fact which determines most of the others. You rightly mention that the Americans are considering whether to include their own "grey area weapons" in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT). The grey area in question is between "strategic" and "tactical", and the weapons are those bombers and missiles in the American armoury which can hit Russia from Western Europe, but not from America.

What you omit is the question whether they, or anyone else, are considering including the corresponding Russian weapons in SALT, or in anything else. For 15 years now, the Soviet Union (and in Israel, China, Japan, India, etc) have had Soviet missiles targeted on us which cannot reach America. They are tactical to the United States, but strategic to us. Indeed, if NATO as a whole pays no attention to them, then NATO is at fault.

For years, when this matter has been raised in Western public debate, British and other governments have returned the answer: "Don't worry; the Soviet ICBMs are old, they are soft, they will phase out naturally". This point, as some predicted, is now known to be a false one: the Soviet Union is replacing them with the new hard, mobile SSX 20s. Will any Western government, or newspaper, ever notice that the countries listed above are threatened by a class of weapons which are more powerful than the United States, and that if the United States does not choose to upset Russia by talking about the

matter, then we had better do so ourselves?
Yours faithfully,
WAYLAND KENNET,
Bourne, Lincoln,
December 10.

From Colonel Jonathan Alford
Sir, While I would agree with almost all Lord Chalfont has said in his article "Will the Commons hear the alarm bells, too?" (December 12), he may be guilty of trying to have it both ways. If, as he suggests, the Soviet submarine threat to Allied North Atlantic traffic is considerable (and this is incontestable) then it must also be acknowledged that the Russian deployment of those submarines (together with surface vessels) from Northern Waters will be detected as they must transit the relatively narrow waters either side of Iceland. Only 10 per cent of their submarine fleet is normally south of Iceland. Setting aside the question of whether NATO will act on such unambiguous indicators, the warning will thus clearly amount to some days—perhaps 5 or 6.

If, on the other hand, the Soviet Union were to delay their submarine and surface deployments until they had launched a short warning attack on the Central Front, they would be markedly less well placed to interfere with the Atlantic Sea routes: an alerted Alliance naval force could make surge deployment costly. Both scenarios are frightening, but the latter is more likely to occur, and it is the range of options which disturbs at least the West should be allowed some crumbs of comfort.

Yours sincerely,
JONATHAN ALFORD,
Assistant Director,
The International Institute for Strategic Studies,
18 Adam Street, WC2.

Harriers for China

From Dr R. L. Lickley FRSE
Sir, As one who was very closely connected with Harrier development from 1960 until the summer of 1976, I was most interested to read your editorial (December 8). The political and strategic cases were clearly made but your comments on the aircraft itself were less than fair and, by giving a false picture of the aircraft and its capabilities, hardly helped potential sales.

You say the Harrier is a complex aircraft and, while this is correct, any aircraft designed for a strike role in the Nato battlefield area cannot be otherwise. You indicated the Harrier was difficult to fly, but all high performance military aircraft are difficult to fly in the sense that the large amounts of thrust available from the jet engine can be difficult to control with great rapidity. In the Harrier this problem is greater because of the ability to hover which greatly widens the speed range available for use by the pilot. It does not, however, suffer from the difficulty of having to land at speeds of 150 mph or higher.

Your next comment is not worthy of a Times leader; all technical devices are easy to crash if misused, from a skateboard to a nuclear submarine. The Harrier has the long periods of flight trials by experienced test pilots, backed by analysis of any problems by highly

qualified and dedicated design staffs, together with the long and precise flying training given to military pilots, to ensure that the capabilities of the aircraft who fly it are so matched that successful operation of the aircraft does take place. Your comment does far less than justice to the designers, the test pilots and the operational pilots who fly the Harrier. The safety of the Harrier in operational flying is at least as good as any other modern high performance strike aircraft.

Your next statement is completely at variance with the facts. Present successful operation of the Harrier at Beizhe shows the Harrier to be independent of advanced ground services and able to operate effectively from areas which have minimal support. While commenting that the Harrier has trouble with the Harrier you fail to mention the magnificent flying regularly carried out by the RAF squadrons in Germany at high speed and low level in all weather conditions.

You appear to feel, Sir, that the problems you raise may be surmountable. This should be an easy task, for in the context of successful high performance aircraft such as the Harrier, they have already been surmounted.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT L. LICKLEY,
Farnborough,
Wokingham Avenue,
Wokingham, Hampshire,
Surrey,
December 12.

Curbing pornography

From Mr Raymond Blackburn
Sir, The letter from the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester to the NUJ's welcome by the Labour Party on Westminster Press reporters at the party's annual conference was scarcely a reassuring sign. At much the same time a journalist was refused a union card because he had once worked for a National Front publication, and an attempt was made by the union to impose highly subjective rules (with penalties for disobedience) regarding the reporting of racial affairs.

Rigid application of the closed shop in journalism creates an unacceptable risk of restraint on union liberty. Effective control of what is or is not reported would be in the hands of a single politically active organization. The NUJ would be able to decide who wrote for the press, and to restrict its members to a particular type of journalism, or to refuse to accept any of its members. The union's recent leaders may be fully determined never to do this, but the fact that a closed shop would give them the political currents in the union is a strong and it is impossible to be certain that the same will always be true. The purpose of the Trade Union Congress will make it more difficult to pursue the same campaign elsewhere, and therefore it must be welcomed by those who value a free press.

get together and work out with government a compromise way of determining our remuneration that precludes the use of the strike weapon in exchange for submission to truly independent arbitration not subject to interference by civil servants envious of our semi-independent status and convinced that there is more value in directing others than doing things oneself for others. Could I add that the involvement of troops in fire fighting raises once again the question of how valuable the reintroduction of national service would be in reducing demoralising unemployment and occupying adventurous and chivalrous youth in disciplines and sometimes dangerous work on behalf of the community—perhaps in an international disaster service.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. DAVIS,
Director,
The Department of Child Health,
University of Manchester,
St Mary's Hospital,
Fletcher Road,
Manchester,
December 7.

Attendance in the House

From Mr Douglas Henderson, MP
From Aberdeen East (Scottish National)
Sir, You have done a great service by drawing attention to the poor attendance of MPs at the Committee Stage of the Scotland Bill. In his article of December 12 David Wood said that a similar "Attendance Table" on the night when the House was settling the issue of PR for European elections would be "instructive".

It occurred to me that it might

the "gaming industry" and illegal slot machines. The gaming industry is becoming the porn industry. Mr Taylor's analogy with the prostitute is misleading. A closer analogy is with the pimp and many Soho pornographers were also pimps.

Lord Denning said "Mr Blackburn condemned pornography in a telling phrase. It is a record of vice, powerful propaganda for promiscuity. So it is for perverts." With divorces running at a rate four or five times greater than a few years ago and all the misery caused to the children, it would be heartless to neglect any means for removing one of the causes. The Chief Constable is to be congratulated. If similar action had been taken everywhere years ago, an empire of vice involving widespread corruption and violence would not have grown and flourished.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND BLACKBURN,
Hornsea Road,
Chichester, W Sussex,
December 12.

be of interest to your readers to know how the press approached this major issue and that a record of attendance in the Parliamentary Press Gallery on Tuesday, December 13, would also be "instructive". Accordingly, on the analogy of your Table of Attendance by MPs at the Committee Stage of the Scotland Bill, I have prepared the following Table of Attendance of the Press Gallery during the Committee of the European Assembly Elections Bill last night and your readers can judge for themselves whether the strictures of "quite disgraceful" which David Wood applied to the attendance of MPs at the Scotland Bill is in any way applicable:

Time	Attendance
16.30—Start	24
17.00	30
17.30	31
18.00	5
18.30	8
19.00	11
19.30	11
20.00	3
20.30	5
21.00	6
21.30	11

Just before the Division at 10 pm journalists began to drift back into the Gallery.

22.00

I am sorry that I have not been able to distinguish between "Lobby" and "Gallery" correspondents on the analogy of Front and Back Benches. Nor was it easily possible to differentiate the correspondents of different papers and it would be invidious to do so.

Your readers may wish to know that there are 267 journalists officially accredited to the House and some 100 foreign journalists are also entitled to attend.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS HENDERSON,
House of Commons.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Labour and the National Front

From Dr Stuart Lindsay
Sir, I, as a committed opponent, watched the Labour Party's recent broadcast on the National Front with increasing admiration. It takes little involvement in politics to know that there was not a vote winning approach—better by far an ambivalent guess about "controlling the problem" to the "interests of race relations". Politics is not always confined to populism—part of the job is leadership. In using prime party political time to lead rather than follow public opinion they have, for the first time in this Government's life, demonstrated idealism.

Yours sincerely,
STUART LINDSAY,
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate,
Boscombe & Ellersmere Port Conservative Association,
Hawley Hall,
76 Eastham Village Road,
Eastham,
Wirral,
December 9.

From Mrs Lena Jeger, MP for Redbridge, Westminster and Woodford (Labour)
Sir, I refer to Tim Miller's letter printed on December 12 in which he describes the low poll of the National Front in a recent GLC election. But there is no reason to suggest that the Labour Party's television programme should not have taken place. The logic of his argument is to wait until the evil enemy has grown bigger and stronger—and history gives us the answer to that approach.

The future is nearly always only a repetition of the past. In 1937 my late husband, Dr S. W. Jeger, who was a dedicated family doctor in the miserable days of unemployment and poverty in Shoreditch, was opposed at the LCC election by William Joyce. He received 2,564 votes, but of course William Joyce had not the slightest interest in

winning a seat on the LCC. Those local elections were used—and are still being used—as an excuse for public expressions and demonstrations of a creed. It was therefore right that our recent programme linked the fascists with Belsen and the other horrors of war. Joyce used to hold meetings outside the window of my husband's surgery in New North Road, and indicate the lamp post from which "the Jew doctor" would be hanged—an irony of history, indeed. Bricks were thrown through the consulting room window. Patients were afraid to attend and the doctor had to undertake many more home visits. The local police, many of whom, with their families, were his patients, insisted on a rota to sleep in the surgery and escort him on night calls—just as his request. Are we now to wait until coloured doctors and midwives need a police escort as they visit patients?

There were plenty of people ready then to brush all this aside as an aberration which would pass. We know what happened because we lived through the results. But younger people do not understand and must be told. Especially they need to know that the patriotic claims of the National Front are totally spurious. Joyce's organization was called the *British Union of Fascists*. And how British were their activities in the hour of our country's total danger? It was agreed then that they were traitors. And the law dealt with them at last.

They were the most anti-British element in our land. And their heirs, the National Front, are totally anti-national as far as the democratic and tolerant traditions and future of our nation are concerned. This is no time nor place for silence.

Yours truly,
LENA JEGGER, Chairman of the Press and Publicity Committee of the Labour Party,
House of Commons,
December 12.

Criminal legal aid

From Lord Shawcross, QC
Sir, On returning from abroad, I have seen the courteous criticisms by Messrs Du Cann and Marriage on behalf of the Criminal Bar Association (December 2) of some comments I made in a speech to the very experienced Central Criminal Court journalists.

It is true that in challenging justice in an ever-changing world, a barrister acts in right of his client. He is, however, not a mere mouthpiece for his client. He is, as Cordova expressed it, a Minister of Justice. He is not to identify himself with his client. The attempt to "alibi" reminded me of the famous, but quite unjust comment made by Disraeli in his letter to Charles Austin when he wrote "an honourable profession the first principle of whose practice appears to be that they may say anything provided they are paid for it... the practice of circulating falsehoods with impunity is a practice which has done your duty towards your client, which is a very different process from doing your duty towards your neighbour". Disraeli was wrong. As Lord Chief Justice Cockburn put it: "It is the (advocate's) duty to do the utmost of his power to secure the acquittal of his client and the duty to discharge with the eternal and immutable interests of truth and justice." The vast majority of English barristers know how to do this. They are not to allow themselves to be made the vehicle of reckless allegations and do not make charges simply for the purpose of procuring the price of their services. They are satisfied that such charges are a necessary part of their clients' case—and never unless specifically instructed so to

do. It is no function of the Bar to invent a defence.

The English jury system has been based on the principle of random selection of, as it was put, "the twelve men on the Chapham omnibus". I regard the "packing" of juries, as the right of peremptory challenge makes possible, as a serious danger to the country. Several defendants are jointly charged, on grounds of race, religion, sex or supposed social or economic status as an abuse. Because of this Parliament has already tried to restrict the right, if it continues to be abused, Parliament will again have to intervene.

I believe the Bar to be an honourable profession. In these days when, in many fields—and not least those of the law—there is a general decline, I am sure that in their sphere the Criminal Bar Association will keep it that way and will agree with Lord Macaulay that it is "not right that a man with a neck on his head and a band round his neck should do for a guinea what with out those appendages he would think it wicked and infamous to do for an Empire".

Finally, I used the statistic "of about 80 per cent" simply to show that prosecutions are usually justified for that is the proportion of accused who actually plead guilty. The statistics my critics should study are (a) the numbers committed for trial in 1977 as compared with 1947; (b) the proportions of those actually tried in those years who were acquitted—and not least (c) the judicial hours occupied in each year in dealing with these cases. They should also look at the serious allegations made about certain criminal chambers in the Bow Group's latest memorandum.

Yours faithfully,
HARTLEY SHAWCROSS,
House of Lords,
December 14.

Art in lieu of tax

From The Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University
Sir, I write as Chairman of the Visitors of the Ashmolean Museum to express support for the Chairman of the Arts and Culture Committee of Merseyside County Council (December 3) in his concern about the curators' practice practised by the Government when works of art are offered in lieu of death duty. The great university museums appear to be in much the same position as the major local authority ones.

It was revealed to the Visitors of the Ashmolean at their recent meeting that a very rare outstanding early Burgundian print which had been offered by its owner to the Government in lieu of duty had been rejected by the Government on the grounds that it was not "premier". The owner, who had recorded the express wish that the print should go to the Ashmolean, has now had to sell it to meet tax and we understand that it will probably be resold abroad.

In the context of the very important collection of early prints

in the Ashmolean Print Room there is absolutely no doubt but that this print was "premier". It is now probably lost for ever to the Ashmolean and to the country.

The Visitors asked me to express their very grave concern to the Chairman of the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries and I understood that my letter to him had been forwarded to the Select Committee of the House of Commons at present considering this problem in relation to the Land Fund. It is a problem that bears not only on the Ashmolean but on a comparable deprivation has been suffered by the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge. This suggestion that the Standing Commission might appoint a panel of expert advisers to advise the Government seems to offer a much better home of a fair consideration and subsequent allocation of works of art offered in lieu of death duty.

Yours faithfully,
REX RICHARDS,
The Vice-Chancellor,
University Offices,
Wellington Square,
Oxford,
December 12.

Safeguarding the otter

From Lord Broughton of Sowerby, CBE
Sir, Please allow me to refute absolutely the charge (by Mr John Cope, MP, December 9) that the League Against Cruel Sports published misleading advertisements relating to the Otter Order. Mr Cope says that the advertisements first appeared "after it was clear that no MP could vote against the Order, and have even contended since the Order was debated".

That was not so. Mr Cope is quite mistaken. The debate on the Standing Committee on Statutory Instruments did not deprive the House of the power subsequently to reject the Order had MPs chosen to do so. While MPs did not take that course in the Commons, it was taken in the Lords. A motion moved by the Duke of Atholl calling upon the Government to withdraw the Order and to replace it by another of more restricted application was debated and defeated.

The draft Order was therefore open to challenge throughout the

period until the Lords vote on December 6. The League was entitled to appeal for support to save the Order and the Otter until the final procedural stage in the Lords on that date.

HOUGHTON OF SOWERBY,
Chairman,
League Against Cruel Sports,
1 Reform Row, N17,
December 13.

Heavy breathing

From Air Marshal J. M. Nicholls
Sir, Timing myself up to the sixth floor this morning (31.5 seconds) it occurred to me that some of your readers might think that the reason why Frank Cooper cannot find an admiral to pace is that they all start work so much later than the rest of us.

But that would be unkind. The truth is that most of them sleep in their offices. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,
JOHN NICHOLLS,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building, S1,
Whitehall, S1,
December 13.

An Inverness cape

From Mr Peter Such
Sir, While on holiday in Scotland earlier in the year I bought an Inverness cape. I have just started to wear it and my appearance has attracted considerable interest and discussion, as well as the inevitable comments based on Conan Doyle. As a guest at a recent wedding I was embarrassed to receive almost as much attention as the bride.

Is this garment now peculiar to Scotland?
Yours faithfully,
PETER SUCH,
3 Daisy Bank Crescent,
Juntun Road,
Walsall,
West Midlands,
December 6.

Paying public servants

From Professor John A. Davis
Sir, Those who provide front line public services (firemen, the police, soldiers, doctors and nurses)

are quite rightly reluctant to use withdrawal of labour as a means of blackmailing the Government that indirectly employs us to provide higher wages and salaries, which, though once adequate to permit us to concentrate our concern on our clients rather than our dependants, are now lower than those in comparable posts in industry and the independent professions. But if we are not to strike for the sake of the public's ease of mind, we are surely owed the support of public opinion in trying to achieve a reasonable standard of living (say a 10 per cent rather than a 40 per cent drop over the past quinquennium).

Our problem is that because we are employed by government but are not in a real sense civil servants, we fall between two stools; and we cannot expect support from the TUC because it is the more unscrupulous members of that body which make it impossible for the Government to concede our case without setting a disastrous precedent. Could I suggest through your columns that public servants of our kind (I count the Civil Service as masters) should

get together and work out with government a compromise way of determining our remuneration that precludes the use of the strike weapon in exchange for submission to truly independent arbitration not subject to interference by civil servants envious of our semi-independent status and convinced that there is more value in directing others than doing things oneself for others. Could I add that the involvement of troops in fire fighting raises once again the question of how valuable the reintroduction of national service would be in reducing demoralising unemployment and occupying adventurous and chivalrous youth in disciplines and sometimes dangerous work on behalf of the community—perhaps in an international disaster service.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. DAVIS,
Director,
The Department of Child Health,
University of Manchester,
St Mary's Hospital,
Fletcher Road,
Manchester,
December 7.

Law Report December 14 1977

Acas' inability to question stay-at-work employees renders report void

Grumwick Processing Laboratories Ltd v Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service and Others

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Salmon, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton and Lord Keith of Kinkaid

The House of Lords held that a report by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) in March, 1977, recommending that Grumwick Processing Laboratories Ltd, of Willeston, London, should recognize a particular trade union for the purposes of collective bargaining, should be declared void because the recommendation was made without Acas first ascertaining the opinions of about two-thirds of the work force at Grumwick which had continued to work throughout the industrial troubles. Their Lordships held that on the proper construction of section 14(1) of the Employment Protection Act, 1975, Acas was under a mandatory duty to ascertain the opinions of those still at work in spite of the uncooperative conduct of the employers.

The House dismissed an appeal by Acas from the Court of Appeal (The Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Browne and Lord Justice Geoffrey Lane) (The Times, July 30), which on an appeal by Grumwick from Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice

(The Times, July 13) had held void the Acas recommendation that Grumwick should recognize the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex) for the purposes of collective bargaining on behalf of the Grumwick work force.

Section 12(1) of the Employment Protection Act provides: "(1) ... when a recognition issue is referred to the Service (Acas) ... the Service shall examine the issue, shall consult all parties who it considers will be affected by the outcome of the reference and shall make such inquiries as it thinks fit."

Section 14(1) provides: "In the course of its inquiries into a recognition issue under section 12 ... the Service shall ascertain the opinions of workers to whom the issue relates by any means it thinks fit, but if in any case it determines to take a formal ballot of those workers or any description of such workers, the following provisions of this section shall apply."

Mr Dennis Henry, QC, Mr Peter Scott and Mr Peter Goldsmith for Acas; Mr Mervyn Heald, QC, Mr Stuart McKinnon and Mr George Newman for Grumwick. LORD DIPLOCK said that the appeal was concerned with one facet of an industrial dispute which had degenerated into a political battle and unfortunately still continued to do. That fact did not involve their Lordships forming, let alone expressing, any views as to the merits or conduct

of either Grumwick or Apex. All that fell to be decided was a narrow question of law, the true construction of sections 12 to 14 of the Employment Protection Act, 1975, which dealt with the recognition of trade unions by employers for the purposes of collective bargaining, and in particular on the meaning of section 14(1).

Acas was a statutory body set up under section 1 of the Act charged with the general duty of promoting the improvement of industrial relations and "in particular of encouraging the extension of collective bargaining". Its members were appointed by the Secretary of State, in practice because of their experience of industrial relations; and they included representatives of both employers and trade unions. Schedule 1, paragraph 11 expressly provided that Acas should not be subject to any directions of any kind from any minister of the Crown as to the manner in which it was to exercise any of its functions. It was thus a body that should properly be described as independent as well as expert in industrial relations.

Grumwick's business was processing colour photographs for customers. Its work force was largely composed of immigrants of Asian descent from Uganda, but a considerable number of students were engaged temporarily during the summer vacation, which coincided with the busiest period. On August 22, 1976 a student was dismissed for disciplinary reasons. Other workers walked out in sympathy and by the end of the month there were 31 members of

the regular work force on strike, as well as 46 students. Many of those on strike joined Apex which approached Grumwick with a request to negotiate on their behalf. Grumwick declined, and after some violence on the part of some of the strikers, Grumwick, on September 2, dismissed them all.

On October 15 Apex referred to Acas under section 11 a "recognition issue"—whether Apex ought to be recognized by Grumwick as representing all its weekly paid workers (including those dismissed on September 2 who wanted to be reemployed) for the purpose of collective bargaining. Acas's duty was laid down by section 12(1). It involved a three-fold process: (1) examination; (2) consultation; and (3) inquiry; but under (3) the subsection imposed no requirement as to the scope or the nature of the inquiries which Acas must undertake or the manner of conducting them. The apparently unfettered discretion was, however, curtailed by section 14. Section 14(1) made it plain that the workers to whom the issue related were not to be the subjects of "consultation" under section 12(1): they were to be the subjects of "inquiries" to be made under that subsection.

To carry out its duties under section 14(1) of ascertaining the opinions of workers to whom the recognition issue related, Acas proposed to address a questionnaire to them. For that purpose Acas sought to obtain the names and addresses of all Grumwick's weekly paid employees, including those dismissed on September 2 and

available for reemployment, as well as those still in work. Apex gave the names and addresses of all the workers who had joined that union, 110 in number but consisting almost entirely of those who had been dismissed.

Acas asked Grumwick for the names and addresses of all the workers still on its payroll. Grumwick, however, was content that former employees who had been dismissed should not receive the questionnaire; Acas contested that claim, and, pending the resolution of the controversy, Grumwick was unwilling to supply Acas with names and addresses. The Act imposed no time limit on the duration of the process of examination, consultation and inquiry into a recognition issue by section 12(3) to encourage settlement of disputes by agreement; but if that failed, a duty was imposed by section 12(4) to "prepare a written report setting out its findings, any advice in connection with those findings and any recommendation for recognition and the reasons for it, or, where no such recommendation is made, the reasons for not making any recommendation."

Acas was of opinion that by the end of December the situation, which had already given rise to violence and disturbance at the picket line, called for an early report, lest it might deteriorate still further. So on December 29 it distributed the questionnaire to those workers, the great majority of whom had been dismissed. The questionnaire was not distributed on Grumwick's payroll (apart from

a mere handful). Although they numbered between 225 and 250, their views were never ascertained. From the 110 given the questionnaire 92 replies were received; all of them were members of Apex, and that they wanted Apex to negotiate with their employer about their pay and conditions of employment.

Equipped with that information on the opinions of one-third of the workers to whom the issue related, Acas, on March 10, 1977, recommended the recognition of Apex by Grumwick for the purpose of collective bargaining. Its report expressed regret at its inability to ascertain the opinions of the other two-thirds of the workers, stating: "We had no access to the names and addresses, nor any other suitable means of access, to the remaining workers still working in the company, and so their opinions could not be ascertained" (paragraph 22).

In April Grumwick began an action against Acas and Apex for a declaration that the report was ultra vires and void, the principal ground being that Acas should have ascertained or have regard to the opinions of the employees who had been dismissed but were seeking reemployment, as they were not "workers to whom the issue relates". That ground of invalidity had been rejected by the Lord Chief Justice, and the majority of the Court of Appeal for reasons which his Lordship found convincing.

For the purposes of the Employment Protection Act, section 30(1) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, defined worker as "an individual employed by his employer (if any) in whatever capacity is applicable to him, that is to say, as a person who works or normally works or seeks to work, under a contract of employment."

It was enough to consider the words his Lordship had italicized in the definition that a group of employees who had been dismissed for going on strike were among the most likely to need the services of a union to negotiate their reemployment and that that would obviously have been one of the first matters Apex would want to raise with Grumwick.

The defect in what Acas did—which all three members of the Court of Appeal held to be ultra vires—was that it failed to ascertain the opinions of more than 200 weekly paid workers still employed by Grumwick until its reply; but after considerable argument his Lordship thought the appeal could be disposed of on the basis of Acas's finding in paragraph 22.

The Lord Chief Justice had held that the duty under section 14(1) was directory, not mandatory; on Grumwick's appeal all three members of the Court of Appeal rejected that construction and held that the provisions were mandatory and also that the obligation imposed on Acas was to ascertain the results of a formal ballot to his employees who were invited by Acas to take part in it. Apart from that, he might consider it expedient to have a declaration that he was to be compelled to do more than was required of him by section 14(1) and an amendment to the Act would be needed.

Moreover, in the instant case, the workers whose opinions were not ascertained had an important interest in the validity of the recommendations themselves. It was conceded that they were in no way responsible for Acas's inability to ascertain their opinions before preparing its report. Even if a declaration were to be refused to Grumwick, there would be nothing to prevent one being sought by any of those workers, and no possible ground on which to exercise a discretion to refuse. That was a further reason why the declaration of invalidity granted by the Court of Appeal should not be withheld. His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

LORD SALMON, concurring, said that between October and December 1976 Acas was in constant touch with Grumwick seeking by way of reconciliation and to heal the breach between Apex and the strikers on the one hand and Grumwick and those still at work on the other. That must have been an uphill task, for it could not be supposed that Apex or the strikers represented had endeared themselves to Grumwick or the 200 or more workers still in its employment by organizing the large number of pickets, which, though not comparable in numbers with the hordes of pickets later recruited in June and July 1977, had managed since the end of August, 1976, to make the lives of the workers on their way to and from work most unpleasant by abusive and sometimes violent behaviour.

Moreover, it was Apex which had successfully sought the help of the UPW to attempt to bludgeon Grumwick into submission by refusing to handle any of their mail. To cut them off from the post was, as Mr Ward, Grumwick's managing director, had put it, equivalent to cutting their lifeline. Had the postal blocking continued, Grumwick would have been put out of business and their workers would have lost their livelihood. Not surprisingly, those workers were completely opposed to the reinstatement of the strikers who had been harassing them.

It must be exceptional for Acas to be unable to ascertain the opinions of two-thirds of workers to whom a recognition dispute related, however uncooperative the employers might be. But if a large majority of the work force objected to Apex, the Lordship could not imagine that Acas would even contemplate proposing any trade union on their behalf. It is to be noted that under any provision of the Act, Democracy gave one a free choice to decide by whom one wanted to be represented.

His Lordship considered that in the unlikely event of Acas making a recommendation contrary to the genuine opinions of a large majority of the work force concerned, the courts would have power, indeed the duty, to declare the recommendation ultra vires and void. If, however, Acas had reasonable grounds for believing that the opinions expressed by the workers were not their genuine opinions but opinions imposed by pressure from one side or the other, Acas would have the power to ignore them and, when giving the reasons for its decision, state the grounds for its conclusion that the opinions of the majority had been improperly induced.

Lord Edmund-Davies and Lord Fraser concurred with the speech of Lord Diplock. Lord Keith delivered a speech concurring in dismissing the appeal.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Trower, Sill & Keeling.

In the dilemma in which it found itself at the close of 1976, an early report was, in its judgment, necessary if the growing violence engendered by the dispute was to be quelled but it was confronted with difficulties in canvassing the opinions of those workers still employed at Grumwick. It did not feel justified in inferring from their conduct in continuing to run the plant for four months that the opinions of most of them were adverse to being represented in collective bargaining by Apex, which had made the strike official, sanctioned the picketers, and sought the assistance of the Union of Post Office Workers, to make it impossible for Grumwick to continue to carry on providing them with work.

If Acas had thought fit to draw that inference but had nevertheless recommended Apex for recognition, despite the adverse opinion of the majority of workers to whom the recognition issue related, it had given the reasons for such recommendation, it might be that the House of Lords would have had no jurisdiction to interfere; for such recommendation would be within the wide discretion conferred on it by the Act.

But Acas, with its great experience of industrial relations, did not think it right to draw that inference. Its report stated that it had been unable to ascertain the opinions of hundreds of the workers. So it could not have taken them into consideration in making its recommendation for the recognition of Apex.

Confronted by that difficulty Acas had two courses lawfully open to it. There was no statutory time limit within which it must report, and it could have deferred reporting until it had devised some other means of ascertaining the opinions of those workers whose names and addresses Grumwick was unwilling to provide. Or it could have issued a report under section 12(4) setting out its finding that it was unable to ascertain the opinions of the majority of workers and for that reason was deferred from making any recommendation.

Acas's final argument was that even if the court were of opinion that the recommendation was ultra vires, it should nevertheless refuse to make a declaration to that effect because Acas's inability to comply with the mandatory requirements of the Act was due to Grumwick's own conduct in refusing to cooperate.

Where a statutory authority had acted ultra vires any person who was affected by its act could be compelled to do so. It was not validly issued as a declaration of debt or as a declaration of liability to be set aside if he proceeded by way of certiorari or to have it declared void in an action for a declaration. The court might exercise its discretion to refuse to grant such relief if it considered that the authority was induced by the unlawful acts of the complainant himself.

Grumwick, however, had done nothing unlawful. It was under no legal obligation to cooperate with Acas in its consultations or inquiries in a recognition issue. However sensible it might be to do so, the only legal obligation on the employer was confined, in section 14(6), to the duty to provide a formal ballot to his employees who were invited by Acas to take part in it. Apart from that, he might consider it expedient to have a declaration that he was to be compelled to do more than was required of him by section 14(1) and an amendment to the Act would be needed.

Moreover, in the instant case, the workers whose opinions were not ascertained had an important interest in the validity of the recommendations themselves. It was conceded that they were in no way responsible for Acas's inability to ascertain their opinions before preparing its report. Even if a declaration were to be refused to Grumwick, there would be nothing to prevent one being sought by any of those workers, and no possible ground on which to exercise a discretion to refuse. That was a further reason why the declaration of invalidity granted by the Court of Appeal should not be withheld. His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

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It must be exceptional for Acas to be unable to ascertain the opinions of two-thirds of workers to whom a recognition dispute related, however uncooperative the employers might be. But if a large majority of the work force objected to Apex, the Lordship could not imagine that Acas would even contemplate proposing any trade union on their behalf. It is to be noted that under any provision of the Act, Democracy gave one a free choice to decide by whom one wanted to be represented.

His Lordship considered that in the unlikely event of Acas making a recommendation contrary to the genuine opinions of a large majority of the work force concerned, the courts would have power, indeed the duty, to declare the recommendation ultra vires and void. If, however, Acas had reasonable grounds for believing that the opinions expressed by the workers were not their genuine opinions but opinions imposed by pressure from one side or the other, Acas would have the power to ignore them and, when giving the reasons for its decision, state the grounds for its conclusion that the opinions of the majority had been improperly induced.

Lord Edmund-Davies and Lord Fraser concurred with the speech of Lord Diplock. Lord Keith delivered a speech concurring in dismissing the appeal.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Trower, Sill & Keeling.

Ruan—one of Thailand's 75,000 refugees in need



Imagine, for a moment, how a British child would feel, being driven out of Britain by an invading army and being forced to huddle with his moneyless parents in an overcrowded refugee camp in a foreign land where the food and sanitation conditions were appalling.

Now you have some idea of Ruan's bewildered view of the world.

He is just one of 75,000 who have fled from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos into the refugee camps of Thailand. For many, it was like moving from the frying pan into the fire.

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When you give, they live.

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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

High Low Stock										Price Chgs Div Yld										High Low Company										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div Yld										Price Chgs Div 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Total of 318 industrial and agricultural imports will benefit from April in 8-point package Japan to cut tariffs by average of 23pc

By Caroline Atkinson

The Japanese government today announced details of tariff cuts on a range of industrial and agricultural goods. The cuts, which will be implemented from April 1, amount to an average 23 per cent reduction on a total of 318 items.

The present 6.4 per cent tariff on imported cars will be abolished, the 13.5 per cent tariff on computers cut to 10.5 per cent and the tariff on colour film cut from 16 per cent to 11 per cent. Together with a rise in quotas on some agricultural goods, these cuts are part of the eight-point package which the Japanese trade negotiators took to Washington this week.

As expected the extent of the reductions is quite limited, and will not go very far to help foreigners to penetrate Japanese markets.

Even the Japanese recognize that a much wider range of tariff cuts and a liberalization of agricultural imports would be required to satisfy their trading partners.

Strong opposition within Japan to any significant easing of import restrictions has limited the action which can be taken by Mr Fukuda the Prime Minister.

The pressure from America and Europe, and in particular its manifestation in terms of a higher yen may strengthen the hand of the Japanese government against domestic business and agriculture.

The major block to increased imports in Japan is its inefficient distribution system. Large mark ups on foreign goods make them uncompetitive.

The sharp rise in the yen in the last few months is now having an effect on export profits and growth. In fact exports have been moving sideways rather than upwards recently.

With a floating exchange rate the Japanese are discovering that it is not possible for exports and imports to continue to grow at very different rates. The problem which has not been solved is how to boost the home economy and bring in more imports.

The Japanese are still extremely reluctant to allow manufactured imports to penetrate home markets. They are more likely to propose stockpiling raw materials to close their payments gap. The tariff cuts tend to be on goods where the Japanese believe they can fight off foreign competition.

There will be an average rate of tariff reductions of 31 per cent on industrial goods and 15 per cent on agricultural goods. The quotas for beef sold to hotels and oranges (both imported from the United States) are to be raised, as are those on nine other agricultural products.

At the urging of Mr Calaghan, who expressed concern about the destabilizing and deflationary effect on the world economy of the Japanese trade surplus, heads of government at their summit meeting there last week asked the Commission to 'intensify' its consultations with the Tokyo government.

It is estimated that the EEC will have a deficit in trade with Japan this year of \$5,000m (about £277m) compared with \$4,200m last year.

During three days of meetings here, writes David Gross from Washington, senior Japanese and American officials have agreed that the growing trade imbalance in favour of Tokyo is an embarrassment to both sides, but are divided on the measures needed to remedy the situation.

But has gone no further than an offer of improved tariff and quota arrangements and promises to stimulate the Japanese economy.

EEC trade surplus talks start tomorrow

Michael Hornsby writes from Brussels: Japan's large surplus on trade with the EEC, and the measures planned by the Tokyo Government to reduce it, will be examined at talks in Brussels tomorrow between Mr Roy Jenkins, the President of the European Commission, and Mr Nobuhiko Ushiba, the Japanese Minister for Overseas Economic Affairs.

Announcing this to the European Parliament yesterday, Mr Jenkins said that the Japanese measures seemed "to go in the right direction", but just how far they did go would be the main question he would be raising with Mr Ushiba. "This was a matter of 'vital interest' for the Community."

Tokyo and US fail to agree on measures

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Union urges capital reconstruction to cut British Steel loss

By Paul Routledge

Ever Editor
A call to the Government to undertake a capital reconstruction of the financially-troubled state steel industry was made yesterday by the Transport and General Workers Union which pledged "total opposition" to enforced redundancies.

The TGWU, which has about 20,000 members in heavy steel, galvanizing, tinplate, construction and in white-collar grades, also insisted on a campaign to slash steel imports.

Transport union shop stewards and officials meeting in London drew up an 8-point programme which is designed to be organized labour's contribution to the argument on how the industry should cut its huge losses, now running at around £500m a year.

A key item is that "the Government should act to improve the financial position of the BSC by reducing the debt burden". Union leaders say that interest payments are running at £12m a year and should be cut substantially.

British Steel has rejected this argument on the grounds that it would provoke retaliation in export markets—particularly the United States—where it would be seen as a Government subsidy.

The existence of the oral agreement was alleged by Mr Philip Frederick and Mr Hyman Solomon, of Roebuck House, Palace Street, Westminster, and 53-67 Baker Street (Investments), of Holborn Viaduct, London, who were sureties for the loan.

In the High Court last May, Sir Robert Megarry, the Vice-Chancellor, gave judgment against the sureties.

The Appeal Court dismissed an appeal by Mr Frederick and Mr Solomon, but allowed an appeal by 53-67 Baker Street (Investments).

The effect of the Appeal Court's ruling is that Mr Frederick and Mr Solomon are liable for the full amount of the loan which, with interest, now amounts to £3,574,889.

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Appeal finds for Crown Agents

An allegation that the Crown Agents agreed to postpone indefinitely repayment of a £2,540,000 loan to a property company was rejected by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The court had been told that the loan to Murrayfields Securities had been agreed in December, 1973. The company discovered that it was between £700,000 and £800,000 more than was needed.

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Foreign profits from N Sea expected to cut invisibles surplus

By Our Economics Staff

Britain's invisible payments surplus, which was £2,344m last year, has probably passed its peak because the drain of foreign profits made in the North Sea will build up substantially in coming years.

An analysis of Britain's invisible trade in the last 20 years is published in a special article in the Bank of England bulletin.

It shows how the proportion of invisibles in Britain's total overseas earnings is much higher than in most other countries, although only slightly higher than in America.

Since 1973, however, the growth of gross earnings from invisibles has not been as fast as that from exports of goods, although the net surplus has continued to grow.

Invisible trade consists of a mixed bag of items ranging from the financial services of the City, tourist earnings, and other services to the interest, profits and dividends (IPD) on foreign-owned assets, and transfers of capital such as government aid payments and remittances sent home by foreign workers.

The services element has been most buoyant in recent years although in real terms it seems that the growth in earnings was considerably less between 1972 and 1976 than in the previous six years.

The composition of the IPD account has changed in the last few years. Public sector payments on their overseas debt have built up significantly.

The surplus funds of the oil exporters have dwindled steadily throughout this year from an estimated £11,000m in the first quarter to £8,000m in the third quarter.

Despite the weakness of the dollar the oil exporters appear to have invested a slightly higher proportion of their surplus in the United States in the third quarter. Much of this was in long-term investment.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

25pc surrender rule—a misconception

From Mr P. G. B. Wills

Sir, Your readers have not over recent weeks, suffered from a shortage of Lord Balogh's views on exchange controls, and now Lord Kaldor has added his weight to the arguments against relaxation. Unfortunately, they both appear to suffer from a basic misconception on the subject of the 25 per cent surrender rule, and I am sure they would not wish this elementary fallacy to call into question the credibility of their main argument.

The debate on exchange controls and on the 25 per cent surrender rule are on two completely different topics and not, as they appear to assume, on two separate aspects of the same subject. The discussion on whether the relaxation of exchange controls and any consequent increase of investment overseas, is good or bad for employment and the economy, is a matter of macro-economic policy which can best be debated by cleverer folk than me. The 25 per cent surrender rule, on the other hand, is nothing to do with this erudite debate; it is a matter of simple book-keeping, and of great importance, therefore, to those whose task is actually to make money for the country, and not simply to theorize about it.

The 25 per cent surrender is only a transfer from the proceeds of the sale of foreign currency securities to the official reserves, in other words, from one type of United Kingdom external asset to another. If their lordships doubt this proposition, then they might usefully see how long it takes them to discover the single reference to the surrender in the CSO publication *United Kingdom balance of payments, 1966-76*. For the purpose of boosting the reserves it was, when it was necessary, a credible emergency measure to reassure the public. In the long run, however, it is counter-productive for obvious reasons.

In the first place, because it is levied on sales of securities, it can be avoided with absolute simplicity by investors retaining their securities rather than selling them. As a consequence, investment managers are neither maximizing their income from interest and dividends, nor are they maximizing the capital value of their investments. One curious effect of the surrender, therefore, is that those who might wish to sell foreign currency securities and reinvest the proceeds in the United Kingdom are dissuaded from so doing by government action.

These and other ill effects of the surrender have been well rehearsed publicly in recent months, and indeed have been broadly accepted by the Government. None the less, no action has been taken largely because of the misconception, mentioned earlier, that the abolition of the surrender would result in an outflow of capital from the United Kingdom.

Capital transfers are governed by the exchange control regulations. These provide that portfolio investments can only be undertaken with investment currency, which must be purchased from a "pool" arising largely from the sales of other foreign currency securities. The 25 per cent surrender subtracts from this "pool" but its abolition would not add to it (except insofar as there would be a negative subtraction), nor would one pennyworth of sterling be diverted into overseas investment.

The fact is that the 25 per cent surrender is no longer needed to window dress the United Kingdom official reserves, and the call for its abolition is nothing to do with the debate about the relaxation of exchange controls. This simple fact appears to be a mystery not only to eminent economists but to the Government and the Treasury as well. Those concerned with the simple day to day management of business might well be excused some exasperation at the apparent ignorance of those in command of our macro-economic destiny.

Yours faithfully,
P. G. B. WILLS,
Council Room,
The Stock Exchange,
London EC2N 1HP,
December 12.

EEC code for companies in South Africa

From the Secretary of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and others

Sir, The code of practice for British companies operating in South Africa is about to be replaced by a new EEC code of conduct, and a greater emphasis will be placed on industrial relations, and on other aspects of employment practices such as job advancement.

Recently the Department of Trade admitted that they have been unable to make an accurate assessment of the effectiveness of the present code because companies have not supplied them with enough information. May we therefore make a strong plea that the British Government in implementing the new code, ensure that the companies concerned provide detailed reports which will make possible an effective assessment of their operations in South Africa. If this is not done, what point is there in introducing a new code?

Yours faithfully,
DEREK R. FARROW (Rev.),
1 Central Buildings,
London SW1H 9NP;
R. BERSFORD,
General Secretary,
Roman Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace;
L. R. PALMER,
Treasurer,
United Reformed Church;
C. H. SWORN,
Financial Secretary,
United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel,
December 8.

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P. G. B. WILLS,
Council Room,
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London EC2N 1HP,
December 12.

An air pollution smoke-screen?

From Professor D. Bryce-Smith

Sir, Only the naive will be reassured by the rather defensive claim (Letters, December 7) from Dr Chester, Director of the CEEB's Research Laboratories, that the CEEB has a lot of people working on the environmental effects of the air pollution to which the CEEB is such a major contributor. His letter fails to mention whether the CEEB is actually doing anything to prevent the emissions of sulphur dioxide, etc from the CEEB's chimneys. Can Dr Chester provide us with any evidence that the CEEB is not up to the classical ploy of using a flurry of research into effects

as a smoke-screen behind which causes continue unabated? Yours truly,
D. BRYCE-SMITH,
Professor of Organic Chemistry,
Department of Chemistry,
University of Reading,
Whiteknights,
Reading RG6 2AD,
December 7.

Trafalgar House

Hotel Bristol

Trollope & Colls

Cementation

RESULTS for the year ended 30th September 1977

(subject to final audit)

1975/76	Operation	Profit	Turnover	Number of Employees
£'000s		£'000s	£'000s	
13,476	Property and investment	15,966	29,920	195
14,758	Construction	16,857	310,486	19,563
9,376	Shipping, aviation and hotels	17,664	222,536	7,631
—	Newspapers (from 1st July 1977)	(239)	24,260	7,226
37,610		50,248	587,262	34,615
3,995	Less: Interest on funded debt	3,834		
33,615	Profit before tax	46,414	(1976-471,314)	
21,615	Profit after tax and extraordinary items	30,164	Gross assets £556 million (1976-£436 million)	
14.2p	Earnings per Ordinary Share	18.6p	Net assets £147 million (1976-£91 million)	

The 1977 Report and Accounts will be posted to Shareholders on 22nd December 1977 and copies may be obtained from the Secretary, 1 Berkeley Street, London W1X 6NN.

CLEVELAND BRIDGE AND ENGINEERING

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Clark & Fenn

CUNARD International Hotel

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48 PAGES
7 PAGES
CITY PRICES
ONE break-up for every TWO

Together,
we make things work

*With apologies to the 104 companies omitted from this advertisement.

هذا ان الاصل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The spending spree at Trafalgar

Trafalgar House has more than lived up to expectations. Profits for the year to September are 38 per cent higher at £46.4m with shipping, aviation and hotels nearly doubling their contribution, but the shares at 144p are not on a rating for a growth stock, despite the fact that profits have trebled since 1972 and earnings per share have more than doubled. The yield of 5.4 per cent and p/e ratio of eight, is in fact, very close to the market average. There is a case to be made, therefore, that the price has not kept pace with events.

Opinion, however, is divided. An investment in Trafalgar House now is seen as a question of faith. Either the management can invest the cash flow which is flooding in profitably, or the growth will slow down leaving the group as a disparate mixture of diversified areas with no clear linking industrial logic.

Its past record on acquisitions is good. Cunard is held up as the best example of its flair. Criticism of that acquisition was as strong as it has been of the acquisition of Beaverbrook, and yet it has proved a strong earner.

Trafalgar supporters believe it can do the same in newspapers and publishing. Its detractors say that there was considerable good fortune in the success of Cunard and that Beaverbrook and publishing are very different propositions. But the scale of the new investment needs putting into perspective. So far Trafalgar's investment in Beaverbrook is limited to the £14m purchase figure. The risk in the context of a group which spent £85m on fixed assets last year and still reduced borrowings (down to around £200m at the year end) is not substantial. But whether the gains are potentially substantial is a different matter.

The group is determined to invest its cash flow. If it stayed still it would start paying main stream corporation tax in 1981. Tax management though is not a reason on its own for substantial spending. The alternative would be to build-up the cash balances as has been done by GEC and look for a way of increasing the return to shareholders. Although the dividend was increased by 90 per cent with the rights issue it is now covered 3½ times by earnings and could stand to be substantially increased.

Growth by acquisition may allow the real return to grow faster. But organic growth for the current year looks assured, and so does the prospect of further acquisitions.

Property revenues are now coming through quite strongly and all sides of the contracting division, except for the specialist piling companies, did better last year. Housebuilding at last looks to be improving.

Guinness

The question of earnings quality

Marking Arthur Guinness shares down about 10p to 184p after virtually static full year pre-tax profits of £39.5m were revealed, the stock market seems to have over-reacted. It is true that Guinness is becoming more difficult to assess. About 25 per cent of profits now come from non-brewing activities, and if adjustment is made for interest in investment borrowings, the bulk of which went into overseas brewing, the contribution is higher still.

Guinness has become a kind of mini-oligopoly. It embraces five sectors other than brewing, and one of them, general trading, almost doubled its profits to £6.3m, whereas turnover makes up 24 per cent of the £49.8m total, with Ireland adding another 40 per cent. On the brewing side, it is the overseas markets—West Africa and South Asia—which provide the growth. It is worth stressing that Guinness is the only United Kingdom brewer successfully to have diversified widely outside its home base.

The decline in brewing profits to £29.2m is attributed to especially poor results in Ireland, and price control and lower consumer spending in both Ireland and Britain. In fact, the alcoholic drinks sector as a whole is about the only one in which real spending has risen over the last year, but Guinness has suffered from being a relatively expensive product, and from a longer-term change in fashion reflected in its market share falling for several years.

The market's uncertainty centres on the quality of Guinness's earnings. The Nigerian operation, in which about £7m is currently being invested, has defied the critics and profits are continuing to rise. But it suffers

from high inflation and arbitrary price control, and there is always the fear of expropriation lurking in the background. The logic of acquiring the other companies in manufacturing, trading and retailing is not immediately obvious: eyebrows were raised at the announcement of a 51 per cent stake in DG Leisure Centres.

At about 5.9 per cent the yield is above average for brewers, and the shares are selling at about nine times earnings. On the assumption of much better consumer spending next year, some analysts are even forecasting £50m profits. But the doubts about the quality of earnings and the corporate strategy mean that investors might feel safer with a more generous yield margin over the sector average.

Gilts

The Bank calls for restraint

The threat to the Lib/Lab pact and talk of a November trade deficit had lopped 9.7 points off the FT index by midday yesterday. But the mid-afternoon news of a £215m November surplus quickly saw most of the lost ground recovered, while gilts finished the day with gains of up to 4. Whether that will prove enough to drum up great enthusiasm for the new short "tap" on offer this morning remains to be seen, but the Bank's signal that it is not looking for any drop in MLR before the holiday is hardly going to encourage those who might have been looking for a quick "turn".

Meanwhile, the gilt market should at least find the latest Bank of England Bulletin much to its taste. The fight to ensure that inflation continues to come down, and then stays down, is clearly top of the Bank's list of priorities. This, the Bank argues, requires that the formulation of monetary targets for next year, though allowing for real growth in the economy, should take account of the need for inflation to be reduced.

By inference, the Bank also argues for restraint in stimulating the economy. Stimulation through an increase in the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement would be self-defeating, it says, if it led to excessive monetary growth which, in turn, forced up interest rates. There is no indication, however, as to the kind of PSBR figure that the Bank regards as the happy medium.

A point of interest to holders of the Government "floater", incidentally, is that the Bank officially admits to having bought in stock (against sales of other stocks), helping the price to remain reasonably stable.



● The new cider excise duty is having an even more catastrophic impact on Bulmer whose chairman is Mr Peter Prior (above) than even the company expected with a 14 per cent volume decline in the half-year to the end of October translating into a slump in pre-tax profits from £2.95m to £1.23m. For a group that is almost wholly dependent on one product and which has made only desultory efforts to expand overseas the operational gearing is necessarily high and while that has worked in its favour in the last few years the new turn of events has hit it with vengeance.

Since last September the excise duty has added 28 per cent to selling prices which combined with two price increases in the latest reporting period has pushed up prices by some 45 per cent to a level where the earlier price advantage over beer or wine has been whittled away entirely and that has hit off-ticence sales in particular.

Despite a further 7.8 per cent price increase last month sales have got off to a better start this half though the 10 per cent increase seen in October has not been followed through since. So pre-tax profits may be only some £2.1m this year against last year's £3.9m for a fully taxed p/e ratio of about 11 at 124p.

Economic notebook

Hand in hand down separate roads

After a period of blood-letting in the public sector, like that in 1976 when Cabinet ministers twice had to vote spending programmes, it is used for Whitehall to rediscover the virtues of stability and continuity in the conduct of public expenditure. There is every indication that the annual expenditure White Paper to be published in the middle of next month will reflect a new endorsement of these virtues.

How far in this direction the coming White Paper will go will soon be clear. But at the most senior level in the Treasury the view is that stability can best be achieved if spending policy is kept moderate. Opinion appears to be hardening in favour of a proposal that will limit the growth of public spending to about 2 per cent a year.

The choice of a 2 per cent growth path would, on the face of it, appear to be somewhat arbitrary. It is a little below the historical growth rate of the economy as a whole and its choice would seem to owe much to the present preoccupation with reducing the tax burden and making more resources available to the private sector.

There has always been a conflict of objectives in public spending policy. On the one hand, the efficient provision of public goods and services requires a minimum of disruption and dislocation. On the other, if public spending is to be used as a regulator of the economy, rising when business activity in the private sector is depressed

whether public spending ever can be effectively used as a regulator of demand management, even if it is thought that this should be a primary purpose. Indeed, since the report of the Flowden Committee in 1961 it has frequently been argued that public spending was an exceedingly poor instrument of demand management.

The problem is that, in the nature of government expenditure projects, there are large time lags between the decision to make changes to planned spending and the execution of such decisions. It can take one or even two years to get a project off the drawing board and into the construction stage. The general feeling has been that the decision was taken when the decision was taken may already have recovered.

While it may take rather less time to run down a project, this cannot be done overnight. A bridge cannot be half built, neither can new factories be abandoned at a dangerous state of construction.

This has led many people to argue that while it may have been the intention in the past to use public spending as a counter-cyclical instrument for managing the economy it has not in practice been successfully used as such.

As an extension of this proposition it is usually argued that tax cuts are a far superior method of stimulating the economy, because their effect is more immediate. This is also a view shared by senior Treasury officials.

However, the argument is not as clear cut as it is sometimes presented. For a start, there is no guarantee that individuals will spend the extra income resulting from the tax cuts.

What has surprised many economists in the past few years is the high level of household savings. Tax cuts may simply end up in Post Office savings accounts or building society deposit accounts.

Furthermore, even when tax cuts lead to higher spending, there may be a tendency to buy imported goods or goods that are produced by capital-intensive methods and therefore create few extra jobs.

Public spending tends to lead to more employment and fewer imports than tax cuts, at least in its first-round effects.

So where does this leave the argument for using public spending as a regulator of demand management? To some extent, the answer depends on the wider policies being pursued by the Government at the time and the prevailing constraints on the economy.

For better or for worse, the Chancellor and his advisers now believe that the tax burden is too high. In support of this case they observe that a married man on average earnings will this year be paying about 22 per cent of his earnings in income tax, compared with a tenth in 1960. If he were earning the national average he would still be paying about 16 per cent of his income in tax, compared with less than 5 per cent in 1960.

The converse of this is that public expenditure has risen steadily as a proportion of national output. On present projections the proportion in the financial year 1978-79 will be about 43 per cent.

It is not clear how this is to be reduced, then public expenditure will have to grow more modestly for a time. Mr Healey is on record as saying that once the tax burden has been reduced he hopes that public spending can be allowed to grow as fast as national output in general.

This is fine as long as steady growth in the overall economy can be sustained. But it would be excessive to rigidly rule out the rather faster growth of public spending if the economy failed to perform as well as expected.

There are many disadvantages to using government expenditure as an economic regulator, but the case for its use as a means of manoeuvre is unnecessarily restricted by totally abandoning the use of such spending as a policy instrument for supporting the level of demand during the recession.

This is surely not what the Treasury can really be proposing. Of course, it is valid to ask

Opinion appears to be hardening in favour of a growth limit to public spending of 2 pc a year

and decreasing when private sector activity revives, then some disruption of planned government expenditure is unavoidable.

Admittedly, there have long been doubts about the use of public spending as an economic regulator because of its disruptive effects on other activities. Programmes, like road building and nationalised industry investment, But would stability actually be any greater if the growth of public spending were checked to avoid the expansion of the economy as a whole?

Clearly, if a 2 per cent growth path for government spending were maintained regardless of what was happening elsewhere in the economy, then a greater degree of stability in spending programmes would be achieved. However, if it is the intention that the relationship between public spending and overall economic growth should be a firm one, then this could have a very destabilising effect.

A moment's reflection reveals why. For, under these circumstances a fall in overall economic activity would, by dint of the rigid growth relationship between the private and public sectors, mean that government spending would also have to be curtailed. By contrast, when overall economic activity was at a high level, government spending would similarly be permitted to rise.

In any event, instead of public spending being used in a counter-cyclical fashion, according to Keynesian prescriptions, it would accentuate the booms and troughs of the business cycle.

This is surely not what the Treasury can really be proposing. Of course, it is valid to ask

Pension funds: rich uncle or Aunt Sally?

On the day of the publication of the interim report of the Wilson committee on financial institutions, John Whitmore and (below) Nicholas Hirst look at some of the organizations and men who manage hundreds of millions of pounds

Originally conceived to forestall the growing Labour Party clamour for the nationalization of the leading banks and insurance companies, the Wilson committee inquiry into the functioning of financial institutions has cast its net broadly.

The attitude of those under scrutiny has, by and large, been that a virtue should be made of a necessity. In other words, if the price of removing some of the immediate pressure from the banking and insurance industries was to be a more wide-ranging examination of the financial community, then the occasion should be turned to advantage by showing the outside world once and for all that the financial community had a key role to play in the economy and that it fulfilled this role both efficiently and responsibly.

Whether those who have believed that the financial sector could only benefit by drawing back at least some of the weight of mystery that allegedly surrounded it will in fact be quite so happy when the Wilson committee has eventually finished its work remains to be seen.

The general feeling has been that the weight of evidence so far submitted almost totally vindicates the role of the financial sector in the economy. But that does not mean to say that the committee could not find that there are ways in which, for economic and/or political reasons, this role might not be "improved".

A key area for further scrutiny is inevitably going to be the role of the "institutions", particularly the pension funds and life assurance funds.

These two classes of institution are a dominant force in the highly important long-term savings market. They have grown rapidly over the last decade, their net annual cash flow quadrupling to something approaching £6,500m and the value of their assets reaching a figure that cannot now be very short of £60,000m.

What precisely are those assets? For the most part they are Government stocks, issued to fund the government's debt, and shares in British companies. Between them, the pension and life assurance funds hold about 30 per cent of the £450m (nominal) of gilts-edges securities in issue. In addition, they probably hold rather more than 35 per cent of the £55,000m-at current market

prices—of British company securities quoted on the Stock Exchange. For the rest, their money is largely in property (and property finance) and in short-term liquid assets.

Given the size of these assets and the prospect of further strong growth in net cash flow it is hardly surprising that the pension funds and the life assurance industry have been attracting increasing attention. Their power is wondered at, their accountability questioned, their funds coveted.

Indeed, with or without the Wilson committee, the issue of the institutions would still be a live one, quite simply because big as they already are, they are going to grow still bigger with the passage of time.

One area that has already been the subject of much public and political debate has been that of control over pension fund resources. So far there has been much opposition, not least among pension fund members themselves, to the idea that trade unions should automatically nominate candidates for election to pension fund boards by pension fund members.

Further areas of debate concern the role of the funds in the economy, both in terms of the percentage of savings they draw off from the economy and the way in which they invest the money. Should the funds be left to increase their domination of industrial ownership? Should they be encouraged to invest more money overseas? Should they be encouraged to provide long-term capital for the building societies?



Men of power? A quartet of pension fund managers (left to right): Mr Alfred Singer of the Post Office; Mr Raphael Langham of Unilever; Mr Roger Kitson of Hill Samuel; Mr Kenneth Smith of Reed.

There is a growing feeling in pension fund management that the movement is in grave danger of becoming the Aunt Sally of the Wilson committee on the functioning of City institutions.

In evidence, Sir Harold has drawn attention to the potential of the reserves at the funds' disposal. "They are so powerful," he said, "they do not know how powerful they are."

He added that they could be transformed into more than any government would ever dare to do even if it had a large majority in Parliament.

Within the pension movement there is much doubt as to exactly what Sir Harold meant, but the funds have received one message clearly. This is that in revivalling the insurance companies in the size of funds invested they have become prime targets for an interventionist government, and unlike the insurance companies they do not have a large public relations organization ready to defend their role.

The TUC has suggested a £1,000m fund, subscribed by the pension movement, to be used for industrial reorganization, which would be backed by government guarantees.

Opposition is perhaps not as strong as might be expected. The first point at all involved in pension management was to get over it that the real power rests with the trustees. They have the responsibility in law to look after their colleagues' contributions wisely and to provide the best return.

As Roger Kitson, who looks after pension investments totalling £900m for 112 clients of merchant bank, Hill Samuel, has it: "Acting as a trustee for other people's money concentrates the mind wonderfully."

Increasingly, trustees are composed of 50 per cent trade union representatives, a trend which in itself has social implications. Mr Kitson believes that ownership by the people is

What the men with the money think

being brought about by the growth of pension funds, but he is certainly not against it. "I am strongly in favour of employee involvement in schemes. I believe they are the best people to look after their own, and their colleagues', money."

The one thing he does not believe that they will push investment into unproductive areas for political means.

What evidence there is suggests that employee representatives are concerned that decisions are made on commercial grounds. A recent decision by an investment manager of one of Britain's largest private funds to reduce holdings in South Africa was extensively questioned by the trustees to establish that it had been done for reasons of prudence, not politics.

"There does not appear to be a conflict between social conscience and maximization of return," says Alfred Singer, chairman of the trustees of the largest fund in the United Kingdom—the Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund, which has 500,000 members and assets of £1,200m.

He believes it was right to subscribe to Finance For Industry and the Equity Bank because they were specialized funds which could seek out the right growth opportunities.

TUC idea "he said. "It is a genuine attempt at full development of new industries if there is any profitable venture we are prepared to meet it."

Others are less keen. Raphael Langham, a pensions officer at Unilever, which has 52,000 United Kingdom members in a £300m fund, believes

that money would either go to a new investment of its own accord or the investment would not be worthwhile. Neither does he think that pension funds led the power. Sir Harold Wilson thought they had.

"There would be power if there was just one pension fund. But I think it unlikely that in general we have more than 1 or 2 per cent of any one company, so on our own we have no real power. If all the pension funds spoke with one voice, then we would have power, but clearly we do not."

Undoubtedly part of the argument about the "power" held by pension funds is connected with the belief that they have wrought a change in the way the market operates.

Sir Harold has drawn attention to the fact that pension funds invest money in large tranches. Behind that thought is the idea that concentration of investment has inhibited the small company from raising money either by depressing its rating or by simply leaving it below the size criteria for new investment.

"We were asked questions about this," said Kenneth Smith, formerly of the British Steel Corporation Pension Fund, and now pensions director at Reed International. Reed's United Kingdom fund totals £170m and it has 45,000 members.

"We had Hugh Jenkins of the Coal Board fund with us. He has set up a special fund to try and get money direct from industry. It seemed when the fund looked at a proposition other investors had been there already. It was merely the unpromising companies which found it difficult to find funds."

Mr Smith, who is president of the National Association of Pension Funds, summed up the feelings of many when he said: "We have seen starved British industry. We have subscribed for rights issues galore. If there is any profitable venture we are prepared to meet it."

The worrying thing is there have been so few investments that have shown they have the promise to meet our eventual liabilities."

Business Diary: Ansell's bitterest man • Food and the flag

reference between Allied Breweries and the advertising agency David Lane Bernbach over the last few months came to a head yesterday with the formal resignation by DDB of all its Allied accounts.

The agency will lose business which had grown from about £200,000 in 1963, when DDB first became involved, to a peak of over £1m last year, so the move will go down in the annals as one of the big agency-client clashes.

The nub of the problem appears to be Allied's move towards central direction of its creative and copywriting, leaving the regional companies, which were asked to come up with a new campaign for Ansell's beer instead of developing an existing theme which the agency was highly successful.

Such was the disagreement but Allied offered the alternative of a meeting on Tuesday night between Peter Lombard, marketing director of Allied, and Brian Aldridge, DDB chairman, at which the latter decided to break the tie with Ansell's and go to the other side.

Walton said that its "Bitterness" classic marketing

case history in transforming attitudes to the brand and helping to boost sales nearly five-fold, despite being heavily outspent by the main competitor, Richard Palmer, chairman of the international division of Associated Biscuits, and wants to rope into BFEC notable newcomers like Cadbury Schweppes, Mars and Unigate.

Amos yesterday became chairman of the British Food Export Council. He succeeds Richard Palmer, chairman of the international division of Associated Biscuits, and wants to rope into BFEC notable newcomers like Cadbury Schweppes, Mars and Unigate.

Amos told Business Diary yesterday that many smaller firms who are not exporting much could sell more abroad in British food promotions which BFEC organizes.

For example, Woodward's, a Canadian supermarket chain, will be pushing British foods for seven weeks next summer. Individual British manufac-



Westabix's Paul Amos: what's eating him?

turers Amos says, might not be able to interest such a group. Westabix is a family-owned private company with headquarters at Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire, and is the only British-owned major in the British breakfast cereal market. About 12 per cent of production is exported and that share is increasing.

Amos says that Britain imports about £4,500m-worth of food a year and exports about £1,500m-worth, with the balance narrowing in Britain's favour.

British Leyland has been ripped on the knuckles by the Advertising Standards Authority today for its use of the phrase "quickly and efficiently" in literature describing to buyers of new cars the services offered

under the Leyland Supercover warranty scheme. This follows the experiences of a Newcastle man who bought a 1977 sports car from Leyland's prestige models, in June last year. He had various problems with it and subsequently followed the Supercover advice and wrote to the managing director of Leyland Cars, Derek Whitaker. Mr Whitaker pledged to deal with such matters with the said quickness and efficiency.

The owner's dissatisfaction, however, spurred him to complain to the ASA, which has upheld the complaint because of the lack of evidence that any "effective action" was taken by Leyland.

Leyland Cars, however, said yesterday that it was "a little aggrieved" by the tone of the ASA report.

A spokesman added that the Newcastle owner was "a very difficult man to satisfy". His car had been off the road for three days in the first nine months and later for a week, when he was given a hire car free of charge.

The Supercover leaflet now urges new buyers to send off the pre-addressed card to the managing director "should you have the right to expect from any Leyland dealer."

George Ball, the London and South Eastern regional training manager of the Engineering Industry Training Board, took a chance when he invited Alan Swinden to open a juvenile training centre in Portsmouth yesterday.

Swinden, who is chief adviser on social affairs to the Confederation of British Industry, explained that the last time he had been in a training centre was seven years ago in his days as director of the EITB. He had opened the centre, at Plympton, Devon, only for it to fall down a year later. When the place was rebuilt, he told Business Diary's reporter, he had no more chances as the reopening was done not by Swinden but by

his then chairman, Sir Arnold Lindley.

The new Portsmouth centre, which was still standing when Business Diary went to press, is for youngsters who do not have the qualifications for engineering or craft training, but who the board think nonetheless could do well in the industry.

The scheme has the support of Portsmouth's engineering training association, and the courses are based upon a survey of the needs of companies in the area carried out by the local EITB training adviser, David Stockdale.

I see from an exchange of letters between the Toru MP Michael Latham and Joel Barnett, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, that the latter rejoices in the nickname "Jelly". This is not an Opposition joke, but how the minister is addressed ("Dear Jelly") in the text of the letters as given in *House of Commons* would have none of this familiarity in reply and merely wrote "Dear Michael". I suppose Barnett could have called him "Lathery", but that sounds a little too public school on the lips of a Labour man. Latham was at Marlborough and Barnett at Manchester Central High School.

LONDON SHOP PROPERTY TRUST LIMITED

Sir Cyril Black reports on the year ended 30th April 1977

Results for the year.

	1977	1976
Profit before tax	538,079	500,604
Cost of Dividends	378,395	374,502
Shareholders funds	10,741,757	9,740,303

- Property revenue up from £1.21M to £1.26M.
- Property and investment trading increased from £196,000 to £342,000.
- Income from Associated Companies rose to £178,000 from £81,000.
- Shareholders funds £10.7M compared with £9.7M.
- During first eight months of calendar year 1977 rental increases arranged amounting to about £220,000 per annum.
- Properties valued in 1972 at £3.03M have since been sold for aggregate prices of £3.75M.
- Professional valuation of properties to take place at 30th April, 1978.
- Future of Group viewed with restrained optimism.

GUINNESS

Preliminary Announcement of
Profits and Dividend
52 weeks ended 24th September, 1977

	Notes	1977 £000	1976 £000
TURNOVER	1	498,849	413,878
PROFITS			
TRADING PROFIT	2		
Brewing		29,173	31,261
Confectionery		293	487
General Trading		6,297	3,499
Leisure		576	126
Plastics and Materials Handling	3	2,582	980
Property		137	157
Interest charges		38,978	36,158
		6,333	6,069
Investment income		32,645	30,089
Share of profits of associated companies	4	987	8,306
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION		39,450	39,312
Taxation	5	18,236	18,198
PROFIT AFTER TAXATION		21,214	21,114
Minority interests		2,936	2,203
Extraordinary items	6	18,278	18,911
		2,147	2,690
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO STOCKHOLDERS		16,131	16,221
DIVIDENDS		6,051	5,348
RETAINED PROFIT OF THE GROUP		10,080	10,873
EARNINGS PER 25p STOCK UNIT		21.3p	22.2p

PROPOSED FINAL DIVIDEND FOR 1977

The Directors propose a payment on 10th February, 1978 of a final dividend of 4.6387p per 25p stock unit.

The proposed final dividend together with the associated tax credit is equivalent to 7.0283p (6.339p) making a gross equivalent of the total dividends for the year 10.6350p (9.6683p). This represents an increase of 10% compared with last year which is the maximum permissible under the current counter-inflation legislation.

NOTES

- The following table analyses turnover by sales to customers located in each territory—

	1977	1976
United Kingdom	227.9	191.8
Republic of Ireland	147.7	131.7
Overseas	123.2	90.3
	498.8	413.8

- (a) Trading profit is after charging depreciation of £10,643,000 (£9,737,000) and profit sharing scheme £1,681,000 (£1,869,000).
- (b) The following table shows the trading profit of holding and subsidiary companies resident in each territory—

	1977	1976
United Kingdom (including exports)	13.4	8.6
Republic of Ireland (including exports to U.K. and overseas)	15.4	18.5
Overseas	10.2	8.8
	39.0	35.9

- * Figures not comparable with previous years when the analysis was on the basis of profits attributable to sales in home and overseas markets.
- (c) The increase of £1.4m in overseas trading profit includes £0.5m which can be attributed to the conversion of this year's profit at exchange rates which were more favourable than those used in converting last year's profit.
- White Child & Bency Ltd. became a subsidiary of the Guinness Group on 14th February, 1977. In view of the short period between 14th February and 27th March, 1977, the date to which the interim results of White Child & Bency Ltd. were made up, the results of the plastics and materials handling division only include the figures for that company's second half year.
- The attributable proportion of profits is included in respect of the following associated companies: Harp Lager Ltd., Cantrell & Cochrane Group Ltd., Guinness Ghana Ltd., Guinness (Nigeria) Ltd., Sierra Leone Brewery Ltd., Savage Smith & Co. Ltd., Tampion Cider Co. Ltd. and associated companies of Morrison Son & Jones International Ltd.
- (a) Taxation includes deferred taxation and consists of—

	1977	1976
Holding and subsidiary companies	2000	2000
Taxation arising in—		
United Kingdom	5,728	4,323
Republic of Ireland	5,072	5,070
Overseas	4,171	3,480
Associated companies—share of taxation	15,568	13,883
	2,668	4,315
	18,236	18,198

- (b) U.K. Corporation tax has been provided at the rate of 53% (52%).
- Extraordinary items include charges relating to—

	1977	1976
Revenue expenditure arising in connection with modernisation of Dublin brewery	2,259	1,874
Terminal costs mainly relating to non-brewing activities	591	608
Net book loss on disposal of properties and investments and repayment of currency borrowings	396	547
Provision to write down premiums previously capitalised as goodwill on acquisition of shares in subsidiary companies	3,346	979
Less tax relief and minority interests	1,099	1,318
	2,147	2,690

Summarised Group Balance Sheet at 24th September, 1977

	1977 £000	1976 £000
SOURCES OF CAPITAL		
Ordinary stockholders' equity	134,497	120,670
Deferred taxation, provisions and outside shareholders' interests	40,731	32,719
Loans	58,962	46,088
	234,190	199,477
EMPLOYMENT OF CAPITAL		
Fixed Assets	141,631	126,321
Goodwill	15,552	13,570
Investments	32,360	29,994
Net current assets excluding liquid funds	55,771	46,257
Cash and deposits	17,000	11,927
	262,314	228,069
Less bank overdrafts and short term loans	28,124	28,592
	234,190	199,477

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement

GENERAL
Group turnover is up by 21%, but trading profit by only 8%. The source of profits has markedly changed this year, about 25% now coming from our non-brewing activities.

INFLATION ACCOUNTING

The approximate effect of applying the interim recommendation published by the Accounting Standards Committee on 4th November, 1977 would be to reduce the group profit before taxation by £14.8m (37%). This reduction arises from the deduction of £20.3m, representing additional depreciation of £12.2m and the cost of sales adjustment of £8.1m and the addition of a gearing adjustment of £5.5m.

DEFERRED TAXATION

The approximate effect of adopting the principles contained in the proposed statement of standard accounting practice on deferred taxation (ED19) would have been to reduce the Group's taxation charge by £3.0m (£2.7m) after allowing for Advance Corporation Tax of £1.2m (£0.7m) not immediately recoverable. After adjusting for minority interests earnings would have increased by £4.8m (£2.7m) to £23.1m (£21.6m) representing 26.9p (25.4p) per 25p Stock Unit.

BREWING

Trading profit in the Republic of Ireland fell by nearly £3.5m demonstrating the effects of a year's price freeze during times of inflation.

Sales in Great Britain, which had suffered during the exceptionally hot summer of 1976 showed a welcome recovery, checked however by the decline in people's spending power.

Our overseas brewing operations have produced another excellent performance. Our existing markets remain buoyant and we continue to explore new ones, with encouraging results.

GENERAL TRADING

Morrison Son & Jones have again increased their profits overseas and continue to expand successfully in the home markets.

PLASTICS AND MATERIALS HANDLING

GPG and WCB have increased their profits substantially and are well poised to take advantage of any opportunities for further growth.

LEISURE

Our leisure interests in both cruising and holiday centres are expanding and we look forward to another record year in 1978.

ARTHUR GUINNESS SON AND COMPANY LIMITED

Britons in employment take much larger proportion of personal incomes

How rewards are shared

Europa

Last month we showed the contribution of the service and manufacturing sectors to the Europe countries' incomes. This month we discuss how the division between people, companies and government stands before redistribution through taxes and benefits.

The bulk of national income goes to the personal sector—about 75 per cent in Germany to 90 per cent in Italy.

The division between the different sources of personal income shows even more variation. In Britain people in employment take a much larger share than in the other three countries. The high figure is partly because of the low United Kingdom figure for employer social security contributions, but even if these are added, employment incomes take 65 per cent against less than 60 per cent elsewhere.

The convention is to count employer contributions as part of employment incomes, but one, not even economists, do so asked about their own salaries.

An alternative is to treat these contributions as an indirect tax on labour. On this basis, the French and Italian Governments take more than one quarter of the national income in indirect taxes against one fifth in Germany and one seventh in the United Kingdom—the proportion is below that suggested by the table since insurance companies and pension funds in Britain still take substantial shares of employer contributions; in the other three countries it is negligible.

Italy and France have high agricultural incomes; this explains part but not all of the contribution to personal incomes from rent and self-employment, the remainder represents the higher degree of self-

employment in other areas such as retailing.

Apart from this the personal sector now receives only a negligible reward from the investment it has made in government and industry. Only the United Kingdom still has any pretensions to being a capitalist economy. Even here net interest, dividends, &c., account for only about 5 per cent of the total.

Besides the incomes shown in the table, pensions and other social benefits amounted to 21 per cent of national income in France, Germany and Italy but only 12 per cent in Britain. The figures are not shown in the table because they are largely paid by the government out of taxation. However in the United Kingdom about 15 per cent of national income is paid as pensions by insurance companies and pension funds in return for contributions and could, therefore, be included as a return to capital.

This would make the share benefit figure for Britain even

INCOME BEFORE DIRECT TAXES AND BENEFITS⁽¹⁾

	Germany	France	UK	Italy
Gross wages and salaries ⁽²⁾	43	46	42	42
Employers social security payments	10	13	8	17
Rent ⁽³⁾ and self employment	15	22	11	31
Net interest, dividends, etc.	3	2	4	0
Transfers to or from non-government sources	-1	n	n	n
Total personal sector	74	78	82	89
Companies and financial institutions	15	9	9	3
Government indirect taxes less subsidies	11	13	9	7
Government residue ⁽⁴⁾	-1	n	n	n
Balancing item ⁽⁵⁾	-1	n	n	n
n = less than 0.5%				

(1) Source: National Accounts, Detailed Tables 1970-75, Statistical Office of the European Communities.

UK figures updated from Central Statistical Office data.

German figures are for 1974, remainder for 1975.

(2) Including employee social security contributions and profit sharing.

(3) Other than rent on land which is included in net interest, etc.

(4) Not interest, rent, etc. before taxes.

(5) The effect of taxes and benefits paid to the rest of the world.

smaller. Part of the reason for the low figure is that indirect taxes are not as great as elsewhere. This means that pensioners do not need such a high proportion of national income, the percentage will increase since the British Government plans to raise more money through indirect taxation.

A further factor is the greater proportion of health and other social services in the United Kingdom which are supplied in kind instead of against re-insurance.

Outside the personal sector companies receive from 5 per cent to 15 per cent of the national income as earnings which they use for taxation and investment. Germany's high proportion here helps her industries to invest.

Government receives an income from two sources. Through indirect taxes and from other transactions such as rent and the profits of public enterprises. The income from these other transactions just about balances with government interest payments.

France is the country where the government takes the most income through indirect taxes and Italy the least. The low are, however, balanced by her very high taxes on employment.

As a result the United Kingdom is the country where expenditure—the subject of next month's article—is least affected by taxation.

James Rothman

FINANCIAL NEWS

Carling of Canada to cut its US losses

Carling O'Keefe, of Canada, is used to selling its loss-plagued United States unit, Carling National Brewing Company.

Analysts welcome the news. "It will be the best thing to happen to the company in a long time", one analyst said.

Carling O'Keefe is 50.1 per cent owned by Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada, which is controlled by the Rothmans group of United Kingdom.

After years of steadily maintaining it did not plan to dispose of its United States operations, Carling O'Keefe disclosed last week that negotiations which could lead to the sale were in progress. The company did not elaborate at the time. But Mr John Lockwood, chairman, said that an announcement was planned this week.

Mr Lockwood said the price of any transaction would be "in line with the book value of the United States company less accumulated losses". He would not be specific but indicated the amount would be between \$25m (about £12.5m) and \$30m.

P & O Australia issue

Sydney brokers J. B. Were & Son says that the 625 million \$A1 per share issue by P & O Australia at \$A1.80 a share closed heavily oversubscribed. The issue represents 25 per cent of P & O Australia's post-issue share capital, with the Registrar and Oriental Steam Navigation Company Ltd holding the remaining 75 per cent. The offer opened on December 12 and was due to close not later than December 23. A spokesman for the Sydney Stock Exchange said the shares are expected to be listed around mid-January.

Club Mediterranee

Club Mediterranee, the holiday resort operators, says that its pre-tax turnover for the financial year ended on October 31 came to 1,140m francs (about £126.6m), an increase of 19.7 per cent over the previous year's total of 953m francs.

PUK's sharp rise

Pechiney, Ugle-Kuhmann, France's major aluminium and chemical group, expects to show consolidated net earnings of between 350m francs (about £38.8m) to 500m francs this year. This is up from 153m francs in 1976, the company president, M Philippe Thomas, told analysts. The anticipated profit compares with a loss of 153m francs in 1975.

International

man for the Sydney Stock Exchange said the shares are expected to be listed around mid-January.

Ansett-Avis deal

Melbourne, Dec 14—Ansett Transport Industries of Australia has agreed to acquire the entire issued capital of Avis Rent-a-Car System and subsidiaries holding the family interests of the late Mr Eric McElduff, founder of Avis in Australia. Ansett chairman, Sir Reginald Ansett, announced. He said that settlement is expected to take place this month but the transaction is conditional on the approval of the Minister for Transport.

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BRITISH EMPIRE SECURITIES AND GENERAL TRUST LIMITED

The Eighty-eighth Annual General Meeting of British Empire Securities and General Trust Limited was held on 14th December, 1977 in London. The following is an extract from the statement by Mr R. P. Laurie, J.P. the Chairman, which has been circulated with the Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th September, 1977.

After a year of improving conditions your Board are pleased to be able to report substantially increased revenue and a material improvement in the asset value of your shares. It has been possible to raise the dividend for the year from 0.53p to 0.60p per share and we feel confident that this rate can at least be maintained in 1977/78.

During the past twelve months we have invested rather more money than usual in unquoted securities. This is simply because more opportunities arose for this type of investment, which we have always been prepared to consider rather than a conscious policy move. We have continued in our endeavour to improve your income and to increase the value of your investment by the traditional means of a fair balance between fixed interest securities and equities.

For the future, let us hope that public opinion will assert itself as the most powerful influence in the conduct of affairs instead of that exercised by powerful minority groups at all levels and in every sphere of life. We may then look forward to healthy free enterprise, personal liberty and self reliance.

A summary of the results for the year—

Revenue	£244,166 (£220,498)
Net Revenue (after Taxation and Expenses)	£142,428 (£125,542)
Earnings per 5p Ordinary Share	0.70p (0.62p)
Dividend per 5p Ordinary Share	0.60p (0.53p)
Net Asset Value per 5p Ordinary Share	13.49p (9.72p)

This advertisement complies with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange in London. It does not constitute an invitation to subscribe for or purchase any securities.

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U.S. \$100,000,000 9% Debentures Due 1992

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The Notes and the Debentures have been admitted to the Official List of The Stock Exchange in London. Particulars of the Issuer and the Notes and the Debentures are available in the *Estal Statistical Services Limited* and may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including January 5th, 1978 from the brokers to the issue:

KITCAT & AITKEN
9 Bishopsgate
London, EC2N 8AD

December 15, 1977.

هكذا امن الاصل

FINANCIAL NEWS

Caird plans production cut back after loss

By Ashley Druker

Drastic surgery has been set in motion by Caird (Dundee) following the warning in July last, by Mr. G. M. D. Drummond, chairman, that conditions were "very difficult". He hopes that the company could build up the level of carpet sales gradually as the year progressed and so to end the year on a more encouraging note have evidently failed to materialize.

It now reports a loss before tax swollen from £163,000 to £433,000 for the 26 weeks to September 24, while there is again no interim.

The outcome is that to improve liquidity and to enable the company to operate within its resources, manufacturing activities are to be reduced "substantially" to enable a drastic reduction in overhead costs. This, the chairman hopes, should stabilize the position so that advantage can be taken of any improvement in demand "which must inevitably come".

Generally, the upturn in the economy so widely predicted earlier in the year had not, as he feared, occurred. Demand for carpets had continued to lag behind productive capacity and prices had remained at an un-economic level. This situation was reflected in the latest half-year results.

He went on to say that the carpet industry is probably experiencing the deepest recession within memory.

Some £450,000 had been spent on plant and machinery in the previous year which, added to the pre-tax loss of £218,000, had been a drain on the company's working capital.

Montague Meyer and Phoenix find the going tough in timber

By Richard Allen

More evidence of the current tribulations of the British timber industry came yesterday via interim statements from Montague Meyer and Phoenix Timber.

Meyer's pre-tax profits are down only 21 per cent to £27.4m after a sales increase of 14 per cent to £121m in the six months to September 30. But a major factor has been an £855,000 swing from loss to profit of £565,000 from associates, which includes a £248,000 surplus on a factory sale by Meyer's Halm Group associates.

Mr John Meyer, chairman, said yesterday that the group's own timber business has held up particularly well and the figures compare favourably with those of last year given the large element of stock profits in previous results.

However, he warns that sterling's strength in relation to the currencies of some supplying countries could squeeze margins temporarily in the final quarter.



Mr Alexander Gourvitch, chairman of Phoenix Timber.

Phoenix, however, without the benefit of Meyer's spread of interests, makes no bones about the fact that the going is currently very tough.

Pre-tax profits in the half

year to September 30 have been shipped from £1.4m to £250,000 on sales some 6 per cent lower at £17.6m.

The lack of stock profits which buoyed up last year's results have been a major reason but Phoenix reports that turnover and margins have come under pressure as the expected revival in the building industry has failed to materialize.

Trading results for the second half will depend substantially upon an upturn in building, signs of which have so far been few and far between.

On the dividend front, however, Phoenix after an interim of 3.03p gross is confident enough to predict a maximum permitted increase in the final payment to 3.43p gross.

Meyer's interim payment goes up from 1.37p gross to 2.58p and there is also a supplementary of 0.043p in respect of last year. Meyer's total last year was 6.35p gross.

Standard Bank to raise DM100m

Standard Chartered Bank is at present negotiating with Deutsche Bank as lead manager and Schroder Wagn and European Banking as co-managers, a DM100m bond issue with a fixed life of 10 years.

The bonds will be listed on Frankfurt and Hamburg and are expected to carry a coupon of 6 1/2 per cent a year with an offer price at or near par.

Standard & Chartered is the largest independent British overseas banking organisation with total assets at £7,653m, 1977 amounting to £7,653m.

Strikes slow down Durapipe Int

The interim results of Durapipe International, the old Incedon & Lamberts group, include record profits, but the second half is not so rosy. Mr J. F. Pearce, the chairman, says that the second half has been affected by unofficial strikes at both operating companies, in support of wage claims in excess of Government pay policy.

Although the stoppage at Ansell Jones was short, negotiations restricted to a small number of employees at the Durapipe subsidiary were protracted, and seriously affected deliveries in October, resulting in an operating loss for that month.

Mr Pearce concludes that results for the full year are bound to be affected, but the record profit of £927,000 for the whole of last year should be bettered.

In the first half, pre-tax profits have jumped 52 per cent to £550,000 on turnover 44 per cent to £4m.

Arthur Lee ends year 40pc up

Arthur Lee, maker of steel bars and wire rope, turns in pre-tax profits of £2.8m compared with £1.9m for the year to September 30. The weaker demand evident during the second half of the last financial year has generally persisted into the current year.

However there have been recent signs of a slight revival in the bright bar and wire rope markets, but it is too early to state that such improvements will be sustained.

Ladbroke faces 54pc block at Leisure

Ladbroke Group seems to have little hope of winning Leisure & General Holdings with its bid of 60p, according to Mr John Chapple, the Leisure chairman. He says that some shareholders have specifically indicated that they do not intend to accept the offer. Added to the 19.4 per cent stake controlled by the board, this takes the holding of those against the bid to about 54 per cent of the equity.

In his circular urging shareholders to reject the 60p bid,

Dundonian up 57pc at halfway

With the solid base of its trading activities now augmented by the progressive development of its gas and tungsten mining prospects in Devonshire and Cornwall, pre-tax profit of Dundonian, public services, energy conservation and natural resources group, increased by 57.12 per cent to £60,542 for the six months to September 30, 1977. Historically the majority of Dundonian's annual profit is earned in the second six months and increased by 57.12 per cent to £60,542 for the six months to September 30, 1977. Historically the majority of Dundonian's annual profit is earned in the second six months and increased by 57.12 per cent to £60,542 for the six months to September 30, 1977.

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Associated Dairies leap ahead but shares lag

By Alison Mitchell

Strong interim profits from supermarkets group Associated Dairies helped the shares to recover early losses in the stock markets yesterday. An initial dip of around 5p was cut back to 2p after hours leaving the shares at 240p.

In the six months to October 29, Asda increased pre-tax profits by a fifth from £9.6m to £11.5m on turnover up a quarter to £246m. Trading profit margins were trimmed back fractionally in the period but Mr Arthur Stockdale, chairman, foresees no worries on this score.

Although the Tesco price-cutting balloon went up in July this did little to affect Asda results. The group has a wider range of food and non-food lines than the majority of its competitors and this cushioned it from much of the stepped-up competition, according to the chairman.

Although part of the increased sales came from new stores there was an improvement in volume. Existing supermarkets boosted turnover by around 7 per cent in the period with the balance coming from the rise in selling space. In the six months Asda opened two new supermarkets, in Gosport and Dundee, and extended and reopened a further three.

A timely investment in gilts and securities cushioned the group from the drop in interest rates and contributed a healthy £933,000 return, against £831,000 last year.

Trading since the end of October has been buoyant, with both turnover and profit up on the same period last year, and the chairman is looking for the first half improvement to be maintained. This could see the group finishing the year with a pre-tax profit nudging the £29m level.

Allied Investments in takeover talks

By Ray Maughan

Dealings in Allied Investments were suspended yesterday at 47p as the board revealed that discussions were taking place which might lead to an offer for the whole of the issued capital. The quotation of the 10 per cent unsecured loan stock, whose conversion period has been extended by one month to December 27, was also frozen.

As expected, the bidders comprised a consortium including the National Enterprise Board and Allied's chief institutional investors, Commercial Union Assurance, London Trust and Orion Bank, which control about 45 per cent of the equity. The NEB recently chose Allied-Bristols' only quoted health care group as its partner for promoting United Kingdom medical exports.

Thomson sells its interest in Scottish Television

By Desmond O'Leary

The Thomson Organisation has made arrangements to sell its interest in Scottish Television. Thomson has already disposed of a 25 per cent stake in STV's 25 per cent cumulative preference voting shares with the approval of the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

The shares have been placed pro rata with the buyers of a 2.4 per cent block of "A" shares also previously owned by Thomson which has been placed with a number of Scottish investors.

It is believed that the placing of the "A" shares was made at a price close to the market level of 52p a share. The preference voting shares are not listed on the Stock Exchange. A further 150,000 "A" shares have been earmarked for placing with a Scottish Television employees' trust which is being set up by the company.

Allied, where former British Rail chief Sir Richard Marsh will shortly be appointed chairman, has already achieved considerable success in winning contracts overseas, notably in the Middle East. Turnover in the year to end-April last climbed from £3.7m to £13m while pre-tax profits were nearly doubled to £626,000. But, due to provisions of about £200,000, where no tax relief is available, retentions amounted to just £1,000.

More to the point, the bidders will be hoping that Allied's problems in the Middle East find a ready solution. In his last report, the current chairman, Mr William Spencer, complained of delayed payments, elongated supply lines and complicated official lines of communication. These led to a long list of auditors' qualifications in the last accounts.

Cash calls from Elbar Ind and Cableform

By Ashley Druker

Rights issues to raise in total about £1.7m are announced by Elbar Industrial and Cableform.

In the larger one, Elbar is to issue some 616,000 ordinary shares for cash at 190p a share on a one-for-three basis. The proceeds of the issue will be about £1.49m. Tanganyika Concessions has undertaken to accept for its full entitlement 450,000 shares arising on the 55.12 per cent of the pre-Elbar capital beneficially owned.

A statement said that unaudited interim figures for the half to June 30 last show a record and pre-tax profit, before extraordinary items, of not less than £1.5m. The new shares will not rank for the final dividend.

At the time of its rights issue in December 1976, Elbar forecast a dividend for 1977 totaling 3p a share. An interim dividend of 3.5p has already been paid. Accordingly a final dividend of 4.5p is to be recommended. For the following year, the board also intends to pay a total of 10p a share.

In the other issue, Cableform proposes to bring in about £201,000 by the issue of about 437,000 ordinary on a one-for-one basis at 50p each. The board, and Ashley Industrial Trust, which holds 32.5 per cent, will subscribe in full for their own entitlement. Barclays Merchant Bank has underwritten the remainder.

There are substantial investment plans over the next few years. For the six months in end-September pre-tax profit jumped from £99,000 to £370,000 on which the interim dividend is raised from 0.2p net to 0.22p.

Another successful full year is predicted.

Price war fails to halt CompAir's advance

By Nicholas Hirst

CompAir's profits for the year to October increased to £12.2m from £9.4m despite a continuing price war among its competitors in the compressor market.

With 70 per cent of its sales in overseas markets it is looking for increased market share to raise its volume in the current year, but margins have been rising as capital investment and cost-cutting over the recent past have begun to pay off.

The company says that the current year has opened in an

atmosphere of uncertainty but it sees scope for further progress. It believes that the German economy at least is unlikely to get worse and there is some prospect of improvement in France, while the United States, which is still moving forward takes around 14 per cent of the group's sales.

Its products have been rationalized and the number of components cut down, while over-capacity expansion by its competitors has left some of them with excess stocks on their hands.

But price cutting may still restrict its ability to increase market share although on the industrial controls and tools side it is proving it can compete and beat larger groups.

With only slow growth expected in the world economy in 1978, however, a stronger pound, CompAir must be restricted in what it can achieve.

Its record through the recession, however, has been impressive, and its position as market leader in the United Kingdom, where the economy may be advancing faster than else-

where, will serve it in good stead.

Sales last year advanced 15 per cent—price increases were below the United Kingdom inflation rate so there was a real increase in volume—but profits were nearly 30 per cent higher.

Interest charges were up from £2.5m to £3.1m and depreciation rose reflecting the increased investment.

Earnings a share rose from 10p to 13.47p. Exchange losses of £1.8m were taken direct from reserves. The dividend is equivalent to 5.54p gross.

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION GROUP TRANSVAAL GOLD MINING COMPANIES FINAL DIVIDENDS—FINANCIAL YEARS ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1977

On 14th December, 1977, dividends were declared in South African currency payable to members registered in the books of the undermentioned companies at the close of business on 30th December, 1977.

The transfer registers and registers of members will be closed in each case from 31st December, 1977, to 13th January, 1978, both days inclusive, and warrants will be issued from the Johannesburg and United Kingdom offices of the transfer secretaries on or about 2nd February, 1978. Registered members paid from the United Kingdom will receive the United Kingdom currency equivalent on 24th January, 1978, of the value of their dividends (less appropriate taxes). Any such members may, however, elect to be paid in South African currency, provided that the request is received at the offices of the transfer secretaries in Johannesburg or in the United Kingdom on or before 30th December, 1977.

The effective rate of non-resident shareholders' tax for the undermentioned companies is 15 per cent.

The dividends are payable subject to conditions which can be inspected at the head and London offices of the companies and also at the offices of the companies' transfer secretaries in Johannesburg and the United Kingdom.

Name of company (all of which are incorporated in the Republic of South Africa) Dividend No. Rate of dividend per share

East Daggafontein Mines Limited 71 20 cents

Vaal Reefs Exploration and Mining Company Limited 43 60 cents

Western Deep Levels Limited 32 47.5 cents

EAST DAGGAFONTAIN MINES LIMITED

The company has ceased mining operations and since 1974 no dividend has been distributed to members.

The dividend now declared represents a distribution to members from surplus funds arising during the current year out of clean-up operations, sale of equipment and plant, and the company's share of revenue derived by certain outside parties under agreements as referred to in the quarterly report dated 31st October 1977.

The payment of future dividends by the company cannot be forecast at this stage.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAND & EXPLORATION COMPANY LIMITED

The directors of The South African Land & Exploration Company Limited have decided that dividends will be paid by this company for the year ending 31st December, 1977.

By order of the board

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED

Secretary: J. E. TOWNSEND

Head Office: 44 Main Street, Johannesburg, 2001 (P.O. Box 51587, Marshalltown 2107).

London Office: 40 Holborn Viaduct, EC1P 1AJ

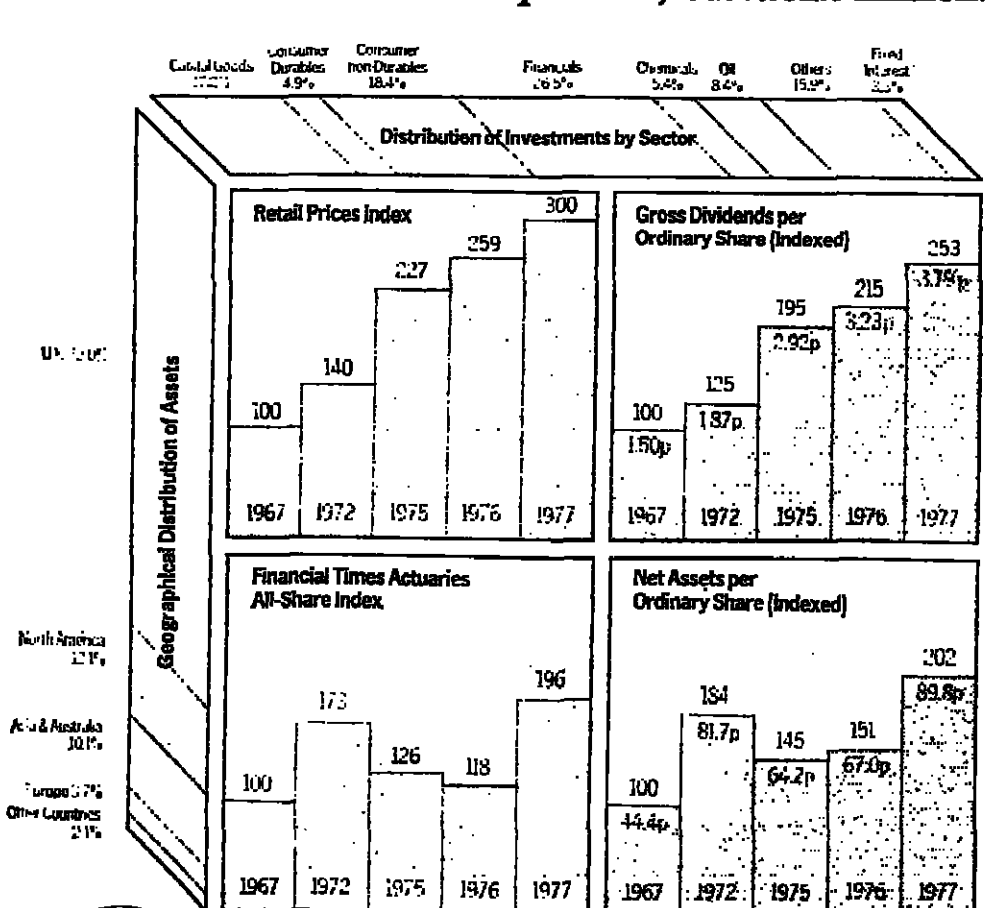
Transfer Secretaries: Consolidated Share Registrars Limited, 62 Marshall Street, Johannesburg, 2001 (P.O. Box 51587, Marshalltown 2107).

Office of the United Kingdom Transfer Secretaries: Charter Consolidated Limited, P.O. Box 102, Charter House, Park Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8EQ

15th December, 1977.

Cedar Investment Trust, Limited

Total Assets at 30th September, 1977: £32.0 million.



A member of the Touche, Remnant Management Group.

Total funds under Group Management exceed £750 million.

Copies of the Prospectus and Accounts can be obtained from The Secretary, Cedar Investment Trust Limited, Winchester House, 77 London Wall, London EC2N 1BH.

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New Year Opportunity A publishing company launching a new venture on the environment next year offers a challenging opportunity for an experienced person.

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Please apply: Miss D. Pellit, Personnel Assistant, IPPF, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW1Y 4PW. Tel: 01-439 2911.



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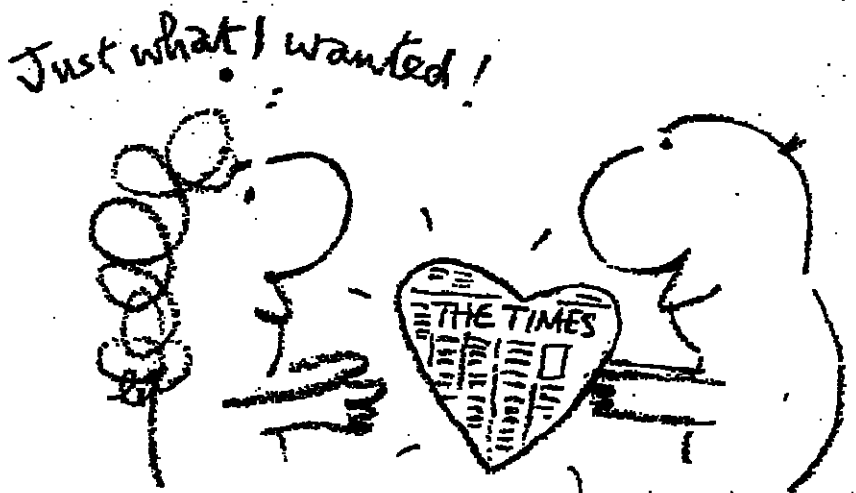
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Motoring

The permissive Danes submit to stringent law

A visit to Denmark has left me with the conclusion that British road users are a strong minority of them — are unwilling to accept obvious and effective safety measures, preferring the "permissive" to get themselves killed or maimed.

The two most striking examples are the compulsory wearing of seat belts and police powers to carry out breath tests at random. The mere mention of either in Britain will provoke cries of outrage, yet Denmark's motorists have to wear both and do so more or less gladly.

Seat-belt wearing for drivers and front seat passengers became compulsory in Denmark on January 1, 1976. The measure passed through Parliament with a two-to-one majority and came into effect, one police patrolman told me, had come across only three drivers so adamantly opposed to the measure that they were prepared to wear the seat instead.

In Britain, opponents of seat-belt wearing argue that it is an infringement of personal liberty. I never heard this in Denmark, which can be very free in some areas as Lord Long and his supporters will testify. The fine for not wearing a seat belt is £10 and it is automatic.

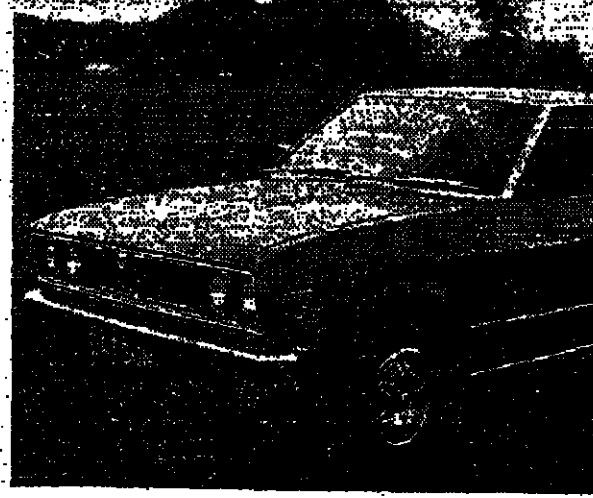
The other main objection raised in Britain is that compulsion would be difficult to enforce. In Denmark, it appears to be self-enforcing in that the average wearing rate since the law came in has risen from 27 per cent to around 90 per cent. Since police patrols are few and far between, this hardly because of a fear of being caught.

Interestingly, the wearing rate is even higher in Copenhagen than on the open road. Usually it is the other way round: people will belt up on the motorway but not in town where they consider the risk of injury to be less. Surprisingly, perhaps, compulsion was not produced a significant drop in fatalities, though the number of serious injuries has fallen.

Britain, which has been talking about compulsion for five years or more, looks like being one of the last European countries to adopt the measure — if, indeed, it ever does. Recent pronouncements from Mr. Rodgers, the Transport Secretary, who feels that parliamentary and public opinion has still to be convinced, suggest no early initiative.

Drink and driving is a serious problem in both countries. A survey in Britain found that a third of drivers killed in road accidents had more than the permitted level of alcohol in their blood; and another report revealed that drivers who had been drinking were involved in 67 per cent of accidents between 10 pm and 4 am.

So what to do about it? The British Government set up the Blennerhassett Committee to advise on the drink and



Towards a European styling: Datsun's new Violet coupé.

driving law and the committee reported in April, 1976. Among its conclusions were that police discretion to carry out breath tests should be "unfettered".

Although the Government accepted Blennerhassett and professes to be deeply concerned about drunken drivers, nearly two years have passed and nothing has been done to implement the report apart from a Home Office evaluation — still far from complete — of alternative breath test devices.

The permitted blood/alcohol limit in Denmark is 80 milligrams per millilitre as it is here, but in other respects their laws are tougher. There is a rising scale of punishments, including imprisonment, depending on how far over the limit the driver is; and three drink/driving offences mean disqualification for life.

Motocyclists who lose their licences usually have to take a new driving test to get them back, which is a sensible provision. On top of this, the police may carry out breath tests at random.

In view of the emotions stirred in Britain by even the thought of random tests, I was naturally interested to see how the measure had been received in Denmark. With very little opposition, I was told. Motocyclists on the whole do not seem being asked to spend a couple of minutes taking a test and accept the necessity for it.

In fact, the police do not ask every hundred yards ready to pounce on an innocent driver just for the hell of it. Normally the test is given only if the police officer has reasonable suspicion or as part of the periodic spot checks on drivers and their vehicles which are a feature of Danish traffic control. But the power is there.

Lack of Respect

Even the laws we do have seem less respected than they are in Denmark. Take speed limits. A report just published by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory found that 35 per cent of drivers were exceeding the 70 mph speed limit on motorways and 8 per cent were going faster than 80 mph.

Yet in Denmark, which has a similar motorway maximum of 110 kilometres per hour, it was rarely passed when I stuck to the letter of the law and even when I deliberately bogged the outside lane there was none of that impatient

flashing and hooting that happens in Britain. Two Danish surveys underline the point: one showed a 48 per cent drop in motorway deaths after introduction of the limit; the other suggested that only 3.6 per cent of motorway drivers travel fast enough to risk prosecution, given that the police normally allow a 10 per cent margin for error.

My next example concerns headlamps. In both countries there is a legal obligation to switch lights on in poor daytime visibility. Denmark out of Copenhagen one grey, but not foggy, morning I estimated that more than 80 per cent of vehicles were using dipped headlights; and how much easier they were to pick out. In Britain the proportion would probably have been around 20 per cent.

Fresh Violets

Whatever the reasons for the success of Japanese cars in Britain, crisp and attractive styling has not usually been one of them. Although there have been exceptions, usually from Honda, the typical Japanese bodyshell has been unimaginative in shape, over-embellished and distinctly short on window area. The last is not only bad aesthetically, but cuts the driver's range of vision.

Recently, however, Japanese car stylists have shown signs of starting to catch up with the best European designs. Each year a new Datsun model, and there have been quite a number recently, has moved away from the dreary shape to which we have not used, towards a more elegant line with slimmer pillars.

Latest to arrive is the mark three version of the small/medium car, the Violet. It has an entirely new body, longer, lower and wider than before, with 10 per cent more glass area and the minimum of bright metal. It could easily be a Ford or Opel (though not one would confuse it with, say, a Citroën).

Mechanically the range is much as before but with two significant exceptions. A new 1397cc overhead valve engine has been brought in to supplement the existing 1595cc unit and coils have replaced the old-fashioned leaf springs in the rear suspension. The new Violets go on sale here early next month at prices from £2,749 to £3,140.

Peter Waymark

Broadcasting

9.25 pm BBC1 The number of people in Britain who sneer at the razzmatazz and brittle cattle-marketry of the beauty-queen game must be almost equal to the millions who watch every Miss United Kingdom show. Tonight John Pitman takes a very close look at The Big Time as Jane Manders found it when she took the plunge from quiet obscurity.

10.15 pm BBC1 Olympia's pre-Christmas show jumping opens with the Turkey Stakes, with the world's top riders trying to take home at least some of the £20,000 prize money.—I.R.R.

BBC 1 9.25 pm, On the Move. 12.45, Lens. 1.00, Pebble Mill. 1.45, 4.45, Head Start. 5.15, 5.30, 5.45, 5.55, 6.00, 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 6.55, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 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DIAMOND WEDDINGS

SILVER WEDDINGS
MR. & MRS. R. H. ST. FRANCIS
 15.12.1977
 15.12.1977

DEATHS
AINSWORTH—On Dec. 13, 1977, Sylvia Ainsworth, nee Lacey, 70, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

RAILEY, KENNETH STUART
 On Dec. 13, 1977, Kenneth Stuart Railey, 68, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

ROBERTSON—On Dec. 13, 1977, Robert Robertson, 68, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

COCKSON—On Dec. 13, 1977, Cockson, 68, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

CORTWELL—On Dec. 13, 1977, Cortwell, 68, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

DIAMOND—On Dec. 13, 1977, Diamond, 68, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

DUYTON—On Dec. 13, 1977, Duyton, 68, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

FOULDS—On Dec. 13, 1977, Foulds, 68, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

HYMAN—On Dec. 13, 1977, Hyman, 68, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

NOAKES—On Dec. 13, 1977, Noakes, 68, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

ORMERY—On Dec. 13, 1977, Ormery, 68, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

ROMER—On Dec. 13, 1977, Romer, 68, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

SCOTCHBROOK—On Dec. 13, 1977, Scotchbrook, 68, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

SECRETAN—On Dec. 13, 1977, Secretan, 68, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

SEIDON—On Dec. 13, 1977, Seidon, 68, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

STUART—On Dec. 13, 1977, Stuart, 68, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

WHITE—On Dec. 13, 1977, White, 68, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

WILLIAMS—On Dec. 13, 1977, Williams, 68, of 10, Victoria Road, Heston, Middlesex, died at home.

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GIFT
SUGGESTIONS

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OPENING AND CLOSING
TIMES

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SKI ITALY AT
CHRISTMAS

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OPENING AND CLOSING
TIMES

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